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MOORS SCHOOL

AT OLD DISTRICT NO. 2

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

THE STORY OF A DISTRICT SCHOOL

BY EDWARD ADAMS RICHARDSON

SEPTEMBER, 1911
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

With the compliments.

of Edward Adams Richardson

Moors School. 1792—1911.

E.W.F. Gro. 10-12

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BY EDWARD ADAMS RICHARDSON

The good old-fashioned district school has many friends and staunch supporters. Among them are those who were once pupils and know from experience the advantages and disadvantages of the system as compared with the more recent method of concentrating all schooling in the villages, in graded schools.

However isolated and inconvenient many of the schoolhouses were, the association there of younger with older pupils was not altogether to their disadvantage. Those who have enjoyed the privilege of attending a district school, or a school in a rural district, will readily recall how many of the older ones felt that they were held up as models for the younger ones and thus renewed their efforts in industry and good behavior.

Education, too, is largely a process of assimilation and frequently the younger pupils could equal the older ones in knowledge contained between the covers of text books to which they had not yet been assigned.

The district school furnishes just the training needed to broaden the younger minds, to teach them that there is something more to be acquired besides that which is laid down in their particular school books and their association with older pupils leads them to hope to know the things their further advanced schoolmates are learning. It is, however, admitted, that when our district school children have arrived at an advanced age it seems desirable that they be gathered with others into the graded schools where undivided attention is given to studies arranged especially for older pupils.

The associations of the rural district school are close and intimate. Many of the pupils are of families who are bound together by ties of kinship or have been friends and neighbors for years. There is a friendliness and tenderness in the gathering together of these children in the small country schoolhouses and quite often the teacher has a kindly interest in their moral and intellectual welfare greater than in the village schools where their environment is supposed to be under the oversight of the village authorities.

In the rural district the teacher becomes an intimate friend of the parents of her pupils, more often living in their homes and learns of their hopes for their offspring and is fully in sympathy with the sentiment as expressed in the frontispiece of the New England primer of 1836.

Children, like tender osiers, take the bow,
And as they first are fashioned always grow;
For what we learn in youth, to that alone,
In ages, we are by second nature prone.

The ungraded school is an institution dating from the early days of the settlement of this country and in the new colonies after 1700 that institution known as a traveling school, succeeded the old dames school.

Under this arrangement the outlying districts were given a schoolmaster or mistress who went about gathering in various farm houses a few pupils who were taught the rudiments of the three R's—Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic.

Shortly after 1700, there was less interest in educational matters than in the Pilgrim days, especially in the interior towns.

The New England primer was quite an advance as a text book over the school book of the Pilgrim days, which was one book for the whole school, the old English hornbook. This was a single card, containing the alphabet and a few simple arithmetic tables, and the whole covered with a transparent sheet of horn to protect it from the inquisitive fingers of aspiring youth, who resorted to it for instruction where it hung suspended by a string from the wall. This is to be compared with the present day method when every pupil has ample text books furnished at public expense.

In Groton, schools had been kept in the various angles or squadrons of the town for many years previous to the promulgation of the new school law in 1789. These schools were in small and rough buildings, often cold and heated in a manner by fires in open fireplaces.

An interpretation of the history of Groton leads us to believe that these schools were supported wholly by the parents of the children in the particular squadron in which the school was maintained, until about the year 1755.

At this time, from the total amount of money appropriated by the town for schools, "twenty pounds was set apart for the 'outskirts.'"

The year 1753, was the date of the setting up of Shirley and Pepperell as separate districts, and in the latter district the same method of providing for the "outskirts" was followed.

Again in Groton in 1758, twenty pounds was set apart for the "reading and writing schools in the several angles of the town," besides thirty pounds for the grammar school at the center of the town. This amount was to be applied only for instruction and the inhabitants of the angles or squadrons, later called districts, undoubtedly provided their own rude schoolhouses on land contributed by individuals as is shown by the clause in many of the deeds which provided that the land should revert to the original owners or their heirs or assigns, should the school cease to exist.

From the year 1789, dates the beginning of Number Two school as a district school, for which the inhabitants of that part of the town were taxed for its maintenance. It is recorded in 1790, that there were sixty-six children of school age in "Major Moors' District No. 2."

In 1792, the town voted to erect several schoolhouses on the sites of the old ones and undoubtedly the present house in Major Joseph Moors' immediate neighborhood was built in accordance with this vote.

The law of 1789, required that towns of fifty families should have six months of schooling, and that reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic be taught in the common or English schools, and that towns having two hundred families should have a grammar school. This last was in a manner letting down the bars, for in the ancient law of 1647, towns of one hundred families were required to maintain a grammar school where young men could be prepared for the ministry, having particular reference to their being fitted to enter Harvard college. This had no reference to the education of the girls, who rarely

(Person)

No. 18. The Asa Sumner Graves Place.

No. 5. The Curtis Lawrence Farm.

No. 30. The Farnsworth-Donahue Place.

No. 53. The John Jackson Graves House.

went beyond the New England primer in those early days.

At the time of the new school law of 1789, the requirements were that the districts should be organized and that the organization should choose a clerk and prudential committee, who had almost autocratic power. The records of some of these district meetings show, between the lines petty jealousies, particularly in the employment of the teacher, who might often be a member of the family of the prudential committee.

After 1789, the academies, which were intended as fitting schools for young men for college, and as seminaries for young ladies, became the goal to which many youths in the district schools were looking. It is true that since that date, in about 1827, the district school training had steadily advanced into geography and grammar and other studies often spoken of by their brothers before them in college. A year at the academy often led them to desire something more. The summer schools of those days were taught by the academy girls and the winter terms by young men still in college classes, who were permitted to take a vacation for the purpose of teaching a district school and thus help pay their way through college.

In the employment of male teachers for the winter terms, the committee had in mind their ability to master their pupils should occasion arise. They undoubtedly had instilled into them from out their old New England primers: "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it from him."

Happily the rod of correction is laid on the shelf and is seldom used in an age where love and mutual respect are prevalent in the schoolroom between teacher and pupils.

In the state library at Boston, is a copy of the school by-laws for Groton in 1805. Article VIII was inserted as follows: "That the advantages of the grammar school may be extended to the greatest possible number of individuals and may be enjoyed as equally as may be, the said school shall be kept in District No. I four months, in No. II, III and V, two months respectively in each year."

This was probably another reason for employing college graduates largely, about this time as teachers of the winter schools. They were expected to be proficient in the advanced branches which would prepare the way for the young men for college and the ministry.

The following from the same source, though printed in full in Dr. Samuel A. Green's Groton Historical Series, Vol. I, No. IX, is so pertinent that it will bear repeating: At a meeting of the school committee of Groton, held November 30, 1805, it was voted to adopt the following: "1. The bible, which affords the best lessons of morality and religion, must be read in all the schools, at least a portion of it, in the forenoon, and another, in the afternoon, either by the instructor, or by a class of such scholars, as can read with propriety, according to his discretion. All those who can read well enough to belong to the bible class, must be required to supply themselves with bibles for their use in schools."

In 1800, the law gave the power to tax the inhabitants of the district for the maintenance of the school and even for the erection of new houses, if required, and from this time the district system was in full swing and power for many years, until finally abolished in 1882. Under such conditions our little brick school at No. 2 came into existence, and like many others was erected in a barren, unattractive spot, near the fork of the roads and as near as may be to the center of the district.

A description of the limits of the district is interesting as showing the residents. In 1805, the by-laws of Groton relative to schools gives the limits of the various school districts at that time. These are published by Dr. Samuel A. Green, at length, in Groton Historical Series, Vol. I, No. IX.

The second description of the district published in 1827, in a new code of by-laws is as follows: "No. 2 extends from Russell's lane on the road towards Harvard to the forks southerly of William Burgess'; easterly to Snake Hill including Curtis Lawrence's House; from the fork of the roads southerly of Wm. Bancroft's House by Levi Stone's to Harvard Road; by Benjamin Moors to the guide

post at Lunenburg Road; and by Charles Warren and Capt. Thos. Farnsworth to Pages Bridge."

Comparing this with the description of 1805, we find that Russell's lane is mentioned in both; that William Burgess lives where John Fiske was, and Curtis Lawrence has succeeded to the estate of Joel Lawrence; Major Joseph Moors, the veteran of two wars, has passed on and his son Benjaman is living at the farm settled by his ancestor, Abraham Moors, in 1716.

The William Bancroft place referred to is the place a few years later occupied by John Jackson Graves. William Bancroft was a lieutenant in the revolutionary war, and later a sheriff and town officer.

Charles Warren, in 1827, lived near the present Gardner estate, and Capt. Thomas Farnsworth resided at the old Farnsworth house on the hillside towards the river.

In the law of 1827, it was required that towns choose prudential committees for the several districts, which was done by allowing the districts to select their own and this was the method generally throughout the state.

In view of our knowledge of succeeding school events in Massachusetts, we are to believe that the period immediately thereafter was rather a degenerate one as regards educational matters, perhaps due to unscrupulous overseers in school affairs and this decadence continued until taken up by James G. Carter of Lancaster, who preceded and became an able coadjutor with Horace Mann, the secretary of the newly established Board of Education in 1837, the date which marks the revival of the school laws.

The third description of the district is printed in the new code of town by-laws which is inserted with the state laws in a record book printed in 1838, and distributed by the town to the various districts for the use of the clerks.

The original record book of District No. 2 school for the years 1838 to 1868, inclusive, is in existence and has revealed much interesting matter. Extracts have been made which may be of peculiar interest since they show the residents of the district for thirty years, and the number of their children between the ages of five and fifteen, and fifteen and twenty-one, male and female as required by law to be enumerated by the district clerk on May first of each year.

In order to show the limits of the district in 1838, it seems desirable to also insert those of District No. 1. "No. 1 is bounded beginning at the bridge over James' Brook in the center of the Town, on the great county road, thence running southwesterly by the current of said brook to the middle of broad meadow, thence southerly through the middle of said broad meadow, crossing the road at "Swill bridge," and thence by the current of water to the road called Russell's Lane, thence easterly by said Lane to the road leading to Harvard, thence northerly by the Harvard Road to a point therein northerly of the house of Curtis Lawrence, thence southeasterly to Half Moon pond, thence northwesterly to the road midway between the houses of Rufus Moors and Joshua Davis, thence northerly to the great county road at the brook issuing from Cady's pond, thence to the road midway between the houses of David Torrey and Sally Whitman, thence to the top of Gibbet hill, thence northwesterly to the point of beginning."

"No. 2 is bounded northerly by No. 1, from Half-moon pond to the water course in Russell's lane thence running northwesterly to the forks of the road between the houses of John J. Graves and Stephen Kendall, thence due west to Nashua River, thence up said river to Page's bridge, thence southeasterly to the forks of the road southerly of Oliver Blood's house, thence easterly to the top of snake hill, thence northerly to the place of beginning at half-moon pond."

In the enumeration as made by the clerk it does not follow that all were in attendance at this school. Some of the older ones were attending school at Groton Center, in the earlier years at the academy, and later at the high school which was established in 1859. Some were going to the grammar school at South Groton and some through with school and at work long before the age limit of twenty-one.

To one familiar with the birth dates of the sons and daughters of the old families this enumeration is a pretty clear index of the attending scholars of old No. 2.

No. 21. Home of the Moors Family. 1716—1850.

No. 48. The John Hartwell House. Moved in 1898.

Groton Academy. Erected 1793—Burned July 4, 1868.

Lawrence Academy—Second Building. Dedicated June 29, 1871.

In the earlier days the district lines were quite closely drawn and several houses were never considered in the district, though near the line, for instance, the Artemas Longley homestead and the John J. Graves place. In order to show where the pupils lived, as far as is at present known, a list of occupants of various houses is given here. It will not show all the names of parents of scholars, but running back from the last known occupants will give for the most part the homes of the pupils. Beginning with the old Rufus Moors place in the eastern part of the district, the houses are taken in succession:

1. Rufus Moors—house removed.
2. Rork, Bliss, Sivert, Lewis, Joseph Moors.
3. Robert Duren.
4. A. Tuttle, Eaton, Whittaker, Colley, Race, N. Sawtell.
5. Willis, Joel Page, Curtis Lawrence, Joel Lawrence.
6. Ramsdell, Hawkes, Harris, Holbrook, Drake, Kendall, Boynton.
7. Bowles, Dickerman, Taintor, H. Stone, James Stone.
8. F. Tuttle, Turner, Gould, Dunham, Samuel F. Stone.
9. J. Sargent, Ward Stone, Betsey Stone.
10. J. E. Gilson, F. E. Gilson, J. M. Gilson, Goodwin, Fletcher, Ward Stone, William Chase, Peter Chase.
11. R. Sargent, J. Tuttle, Benjamin Stevens, Benjamin Stone, Carrig, Willard, L. Burgess.
12. Harriman, Gaut, Chase, E. Sawtell.
13. Clough, Gove, Wright, Hubbard.
14. Black, Thompson, Jewett, Marble, Nimmo, Sparks, Robinson, Lawrence H. Gilson, Asa Gilson.
15. Miller, G. Tuttle, Hulen, H. Gilson, Ward Stone, Gallot.
16. A. G. Lewis, Sanborn, Hodgeman, Matthias Farnsworth.
17. Joseph Graves, Hazzard, Hubbard—old house removed.
18. Jewett, Sumner Graves, T. Stone, W. Burgess, Fiske.
19. T. Smith, Mason, Hills, Stewart, J. M. Gilson, Levi Stone.
20. Evans—house removed.
21. Mandigo, Culver, Chase, Harriman, Mason, Moors.
22. James Culver.
23. Collins, Delano, Wood, Wheeler, George Brown, Reuben Hartwell.
24. Weber, McCarthy, Lyons, Bond, Ellen Brown, Kemp.
25. Wood, Russell, Abraham Stone.
26. Rand, Dickson, Donlon, Abraham Stone.
27. H. Farnsworth, N. Hartwell, Abel Page.
28. Bessant.
29. Berquist, Grimes, Cutts, R. Hartwell.
30. Taylor, Page, Harkinson, Pate, Keegan, Donahue, T. Pollard, Whittemore, J. Farnsworth.
31. Monroe, Wyeth—house removed.
32. Taylor, Messer, L. Farnsworth.
33. W. Davis, Achorn, N. Davis, A. Farnsworth.
34. Keating, J. Pollard, David Davis.
35. Dickinson, Richardson, Moody, Dickson, Hildreth.
36. Huebner, Swan, Newman, Cushing.
37. Berquist, Daffy, Leathes, Denahy.
38. Hackett.
39. Rynn, Parker—house removed.
40. Smith, Fitz—house removed.
41. Jefferson, Watson, Root, Fuller, Daggett, Pollard, Chase, Hall, Stanley—house burned.
42. Gilson, Dutton—house removed.
43. G. Culver, T. Goding, Dibble, Hamlet, Livingston, Messer, Newton, Ferrin, Richardson, Leighton—house removed.
44. Benjamin Hartwell—house removed.
45. Whitney, Jewett, Richardson, Torrey, Marcy, Keyes, Otis.
46. Butler, Kendall, Billings, Richardson—house removed.
47. Powell, Hannis, J. Goodwin—house burned.
48. Waitt, J. Hartwell, Shattuck, Kendall, Hopkins—house removed.
49. Harris, Moulton, Corey, Frost, Stanley.
50. Palmer, Chisholm, Keegan, Shabono, Messer, Twitchell, Reardon, Robbins, Bishop, Carruth, Torrey, G. Culver, Higgins, Needham, Otis, Brennan, Foye, Frost, Hopkins, J. McGilson.
51. Giddings; new home burned.
52. French, Wing, Richardson—Yeast house burned.

Houses outside the district:

53. Stewart, Williams, Blood, J. J. Graves.
54. Hennegan.
55. Scanlon, Dodge.
56. Magoon, O'Neil, Kilbourn.
57. Thomas McGovern, Hall, Benjamin Hazen.

The district school meetings were all conducted in a similar manner, and the record of one is here given for the purpose of showing the procedure:

At a legal meeting of the legal voters in District No. 2, held March 3rd, 1857:

1. Chose Alva Wright, moderator.

2. Chose Luke Farnsworth, clerk.

3. Chose John M. Gilson, prudential committee.

4. Voted that the wood be broughte to the school house before the first of June cut four feet long and cut twice and split fit for the stove and put into the wood shed.

5. Voted to get too cords of oak one cord of pine wood Alva Right bid of the wood at $6.63 cents per cord. Voted that the summer school begin June Monday first and the winter school the first Monday after Thanksgiving.

6. Voted to desolve the meeting attest Luke Farnsworth, Clerk.

Then follows a table of the enumeration of children, fifty-six under fifteen and twelve over fifteen years of age and the residents in the district given, who were: Luke Farnsworth, Thomas Pollard, Reuben Hartwell, Abel Page, Oliver Blood, Nathaniel Davis, Jacob Pollard, Rebecca Green, Walter Keyes, Joseph A. Cushing, Senieth Pierce, Benjamin Hall, Rodolphus Parker, Joseph Richards, Henry Moody, Reuben M. Leighton, Benjamin Hartwell, Lucy M. Richardson, John H. Hartwell, Benjamin Needham, Isaac Harriman, jr., Isaac Harriman, Phillip Gross, Abraham Stone, Ellen Brown, John M. Gilson, Asa Gilson, Asa S. Graves, John Hodgman, William Chase, Ephraim Sawtell, Stedman Willard, Curtis Lawrence, Sumner Boynton, Samuel Stone, Betsey Stone, Alva Wright, Merritt Hale, Mrs. Pierce, Horace Patten, Nathaniel Sawtell· George Bessant.

The enumerator evidently took the names in the order in which they occurred to him as they lived along the roads. Perhaps he made an actual house to house canvass—most of them are in that order except at the end of the list where omissions were added. This list is selected as showing the names of many of the old families before the departure of the community people for the west.

As one follows the record year by year, the changes are noticeable. Here the head of the family drops out by death or removal and a new owner of the estate takes his place with children as reported.

These by-laws of 1838, like those of 1805 and 1827, defined the district limits, determined the date of the district meetings for the first week in March; that a clerk and prudential committee should be chosen; that clerk should take census of families and children; apportionment of town school money and duties of prudential committee. Under these by-laws the district must also make ordinary repairs to the schoolhouses. Article VII of the school by-laws of 1838, read as follows: "The ordinary repairs of schoolhouses and all other incidental expenses of the schools shall be made and defrayed by the the prudential committee from the monies apportioned to their districts; but the rebuilding and more extensive repairs may by vote of the town, be paid from other monies raised."

Under the district system the old schoolhouse had been permitted to go without repairs probably because the burden fell on the inhabitants of the district. A new building or an addition would be erected at the expense of the town at large, and so in the district meeting held on March 5, 1856, it was voted: "To choose a committee to get an article in the warrant for the April meeting to see if the town will repair our schoolhouse and furnish a new stove. Chose Nathan Gallott that committee."

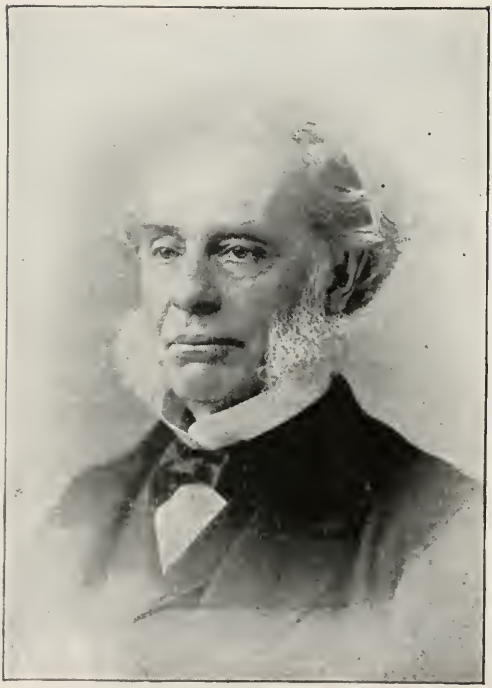
This was allowed by vote of the town and the bills for repairs appear in the town report of February 1857, showing that a new roof was placed upon it and new seats within it.

It is without doubt then that the

No. 7. James Stone Place.

No. 13. Alva Wright House.

George S. Boutwell. 1818—1905.



Daniel Needham. 1822—1895.

old hipped-roof was removed and the present style adopted, for there appears an item for several thousand brick, which the new ends would require and an examination of the house shows the difference in the brick laying. About $400 was expended at this time.

The town of Groton has been favored in having men and women on the school board, who always had an intense interest in the advancement of learning. Among them may be mentioned: Caleb Butler, Daniel Butler, Daniel Needham, George S. Boutwell, Clarissa Butler, Willard Torrey, Walter Shattuck, Samuel W. Rowe, David Fosdick, jr., Crawford Nightingale, J. Bigelow, Artemas Longley, Curtis Lawrence, William A. Lawrence, Josiah K. Bennett, Charles Jacobs, Reuben Lewis, and for the south part of the town, Edmund Dana Bancroft, Dr. John Q. A. McCollester and John E. Hills. These and many others served the town long and faithfully.

In the annual school reports, the committee sometimes give a tribute of appreciation to some successful teacher.

This school was under the particular care of some one member of the committee and for years Artemas Longley, who had been a teacher here, became its guide, councillor and friend, then Josiah K. Bennett, and more recently the late Charles Jacobs. Mr. Jacobs was a graduate of Harvard college, class of 1853. He was a fine scholar, but as the pupils noticed, somewhat diffident in the presence of ladies. He was never married and the scholars wrongly assumed that his visits to the school were more for the teacher than to them. One innocent little girl made bold to say to him one day: "I love my teacher, don't you?" Mr. Jacobs was nonplused and murmured some reply, neither understood by the pupil or the teacher.

One of the old scholars contributes the following as an incident in the school at this time: "Upon the visit of a member of the committee one day, the class in spelling was called up. He gave out the word 'metempsychosis.' It was too formidable for us, and after repeated failures, my sister called out, 'You spell it.' He complied with her request in a way which impressed us all with his superior wisdom."

Mr. Jacobs was always expected in the first week of school, and as one scholar has stated, always commenced his little speech with: "Scholars, I congratulate you upon commencing the term under such favorable circumstances."

The auditors always looked for this preliminary speech and considered it as a compliment to the teacher. On one occasion, in particular, Mr. Jacobs, as chairman of the board, showed his grave responsibility by his nervous introduction of Miss Clarissa Butler, a fellow member of the board, when her presence added dignity to the closing day of school.

In 1854, George S. Boutwell, then secretary of the State Board of Education, was serving as chairman of the school committee of Groton, and makes the report for the committee. In the report he says: "We believe females could be employed all the year around to advantage."

In the report of 1860-61, reference is made to the exodus of many at the "community" for Wisconsin as follows: "Owing to the removal of several families from the district, the number of scholars was considerably less than in former years."

In the report for 1872-3, the committee was pleased to say: "This ungraded school is one of the largest in town and is made up of unusually bright and interesting children."

In the 1874-5 report they say: "The good reputation of this school so nobly earned during the years 1873-4, has been more than sustained under the continued management of Mrs. Ellen M. Torrey throughout the year." They also commented on the attention paid to "mental, moral and physical education."

The town reports from 1847 to 1860, show that the wages of the male teachers were about double that of the lady teachers for the spring term, and after 1860, the lady received about two-thirds the amount paid the man teacher for the winter term, and then the lady sought to keep the winter school, and in 1870, a lady teacher, the year around, was an established custom, except in two instances, and then the continuance of a male teacher did not seem to be warranted.

In 1874, at the town meeting in March, a committee appointed in the previous year, reported a list of names to be given to the old district schools. That committee consisted of Rev. Henry Dix, John Gilson and J. Nelson Hoar, and when their report was finally accepted, District No. 2 school became known as Moors school from the Moors family which had lived for generations just below the schoolhouse on the "Junction" road.

In some towns the spirit of the law of 1837, was closely observed as regards the school census which required the taking of the number, but not the names of children of school age, and some went so far as to prepare registers of the names of scholars. The Acts of 1838, however, made it compulsory under Chapter 105: "Sect. 6. The board of education shall prescribe a blank form of register, to be kept in all the towns and district schools of the commonwealth, and the secretary of state shall forward a sufficient number of copies of the same to the school committees of the respective towns; and said committees shall cause registers to be faithfully kept in all said schools according to the form prescribed. Act to take effect from and after its passing, April 13, 1838."

However compulsory the law may have been intended, it was followed the more "in the breach than in the observance" in Groton, and even if the teachers did keep the register faithfully, it seems that some one after them kept the register so securely that many of them are not to be found at the present time, and none have been found giving the record of school attendance previous to the year 1851.

From these registers it is possible to complete a fairly accurate list of pupils except for a few missing years coming at the beginning or ending of a pupil's attendance.

The canvass of names shows that an entire new set of scholars will be found every nine years, which indicates that at about the age of fifteen, the older ones pass on to higher schools, or have left school, or moved from town.

The list of earlier pupils has been secured from a knowledge of the families living in the district, and from many interesting letters received from representatives of such families. This portion of the list of pupils is by no means complete. It shows only some of the pupils previous to 1851. That part beginning with 1851, is fairly complete and gives the earliest and latest known dates of school attendance. The initials, G. A., L. A. and H. S., followed by a date, signify a scholar's first enrollment at the academy or high school at Groton. In the earlier years many appear as beginning at three, four and five years of age, and a very few as in school when they were of age, the latter mostly in the winter term.

It must be borne in mind that many of the boys had to work every spring and summer, and they let no opportunity pass for recovering the lost ground. It is possible that the names of some who attended in the years in which the registers are missing, may not appear at all.

For the first portion of the list of scholars, the years of enrollment given is based on a probable attendance at the age of five years.

Partial list of pupils previous to 1851, is as follows:

Bartemus, Anna, 1849-51.
Baldwin, Charles B., 1836.
Brennan, Walter, 1849-51.
Burgess, Louisa, 1815.
Chase, William A., 1836.
Culver, Nathan F., 1844-45.
Cushing, Susan, 1848.
Cushing, Harriet, 1844.
Davis, Betsey, 1798, G. A. 1804.
Davis, Lucy, 1798, G. A. 1803.
Dickson, Philip D., 1838-43, G. A. 1839.
Dickson, Henry A., 1842.
Dickson, Walter E., 1838-43.
Dickson, Almira A., 1838-43, G. A. 1841.
Dickson, Mary E., 1838-43, G. A. 1841.
Dickson, Caroline S., 1850, L. A. 1864.
Doltd, Mary Ann, 1838-42.
Doltd, John Carroll, 1838-42.
Dunn, Mary Jane, 1849-51.
Farnsworth, Elizabeth, 1797, G. A. 1804.
Farnsworth, Claudius B., 1820, G. A. 1824.
Farnsworth, Luke, 1790, G. A. 1795.
Farnsworth, Mary, 1835-45, G. A. 1845.
Farnsworth, Amos, 1797, G. A. 1800.
Farnsworth, Ralph, 1800, G. A. 1805, H. U. 1821, Dart. M. S. 1826.
Frost, Ebenezer H., 1830, G. A. 1839.
Frost, Samuel Bailey, 1835.
Frost, Solomon Gilman, 1836, G. A. 1843.
Frost, Sarah Young, 1839, L. A. 1846.
Evans, Harrison D., 1844.
Evans, Eugene, 1844.
Hazen, Hattie, 1849-51.
Hazen, Eveline, 1849-51.
Haven, Albert, 1849-51.
Hildreth, Francis, 1838.
Hildreth, John P., 1841-51.

Caleb Butler. 1776—1854.

Dr. J. Q. A. McCollester. 1831 1911.

No. 16. Hodgman Place.

No. 33. Amos Farnsworth Home.

Hildreth, William, 1842.
Hopkins, Ebenezer, 1804, G. A. 1808.
Hopkins, Jeduthan S., 1805, G. A. 1809.
Hopkins, Dorcas, 1810, G. A. 1815.
Hodgman, Nancy W., 1845, L. A. 1849.
Hodgman, John E., 1845.
Hubbard, Eliza, 1836, G. A. 1837.
Hubbard, Calvin Patterson, 1836, G. A. 1838.
Hazen, Martha A., 1845.
Hazen, Elizabeth, 1841.
Hazen, Benjamin F., 1843, L. A. 1859.
Hazen, William H., 1845.
Gallot, Sarah E., 1830.
Jones, Mary, 1849-51.
Keyes, William L., 1851.
Lund, Emma, 1849-51.
Lawrence, Curtis, 1804, L. A. 1813.
Lawrence, Edward A., 1818, G. A. 1836.
Lawrence, Eliza, 1806, G. A. 1813.
Lawrence, Lucy, 1801.
Lawrence, Lucy Maria, 1830, G. A. 1837.
Lawrence, Mary W., 1839, G. A. 1840.
Lawrence, Susan F., 1833, G. A. 1840.
Lawrence, Susan, 1799, G. A. 1812.
Lawrence, Thomas, 1797.
Mason, Martha E., 1850, L. A. 1851.
Moors, James, 1788.
Moors, Benjamin, 1790, G. A. 1800.
Moors, John F., 1825, G. A. 1830.
Moors, Joseph B., 1833, G. A. 1842.
Newell, Albert, 1841.
Oliver, Nancy, 1849-51.
Pollard, Alfred, 1836, G. A. 1837.
Pollard, Luther, 1836.
Pollard, Thomas, 1833, G. A. 1837.
Pollard, Walter, 1836, G. A. 1837.
Pollard, Albert.
Pollard, Lucy, 1830.
Pollard, Mary J., 1833, G. A. 1839.
Pollard, Sarah A., 1839, G. A. 1845.
Pollard, Agnes B., 1840, L. A. 1847.
Pollard, Lousia F., 1835, G. A. 1840.
Pollard, Warren.
Pollard, Betsey D., 1820, G. A. 1827.
Pollard, Luther, 1849-51.
Page, Nelson, 1836.
Page, Mary Jane, 1838.
Shattuck, M. Adelalde, 1846.
Stone, Sophia, 1820.
Stone, Emily, 1820.
Stone, Abel, 1820.
Stone, Sherman, 1820.
Stone, Sally, 1780.
Stone, Lydia, 1783.
Stone, Lucy, 1787.
Stone, Levi, 1789.
Stone, Betsey, 1791.
Stone, James F., 1793, G. A. 1809.
Stone, John, 1797.
Stone, Samuel, 1802.
Stone, James Franklin, 1823.
Stone, Harriet E., 1824, G. A. 1837.
Stone, Anna Maria, 1827, G. A. 1838.
Stone, John W., 1829.
Stone, James Franklin, 1831, G. A. 1840.
Stone, Levi Augustus, 1834.
Stone, Henry L., 1836, L. A. 1850.
Stone, Valancourt, 1834, G. A. 1843.
Stone, Maria, 1849-51.
Sawtell, Nathaniel, 1803, G. A. 1813.
Sawtell, Ephraim, 1803, G. A. 1813.
Tucker, Josephine, 1849-51.
Wallace, William, 1849-51.
Willard, Alfred, 1845-51.
Willard, M. Almeda, 1845, G. A. 1845.
Willard, Alma, 1845, G. A. 1845.

One branch of the Farnsworth family in the early history of Groton lived on the east road from Groton to Ayer and as early as 1670, it is recorded that Matthias Farnsworth lived there just south of James brook. In 1836, a Mathias Farnsworth sold his farm to Nathaniel and Ephraim Sawtell and they deeded it in the next year to John Hodgman of Bedford. While this is not exactly school history, it is interesting as showing when the Hodgman family came to Groton.

Reuben Hartwell once told Asa Burgess that Matthias Farnsworth went to Michigan and took with him a whole barrel of boots of Mr. Hartwell's making.

Major Amos Farnsworth lived at the present Joy farm during the revolutionary period and marched to Concord and Lexington. He died on October 29, 1847, aged ninety-three. His sons and daughters were pupils at old No. 2 school. There was Dr. Ralph Farnsworth born in 1795, who graduated at Harvard in the class of 1821, and at Dartmouth medical school in 1826, lived for many years in Norwich, Conn., and died there on July 16, 1875. Another son, Dr. Amos Farnsworth, was born in 1788, attended school here and at Groton academy, served as surgeon in the Fourth Massachusetts infantry in the war of 1812. He practised his profession in Boston, and after 1832, in Groton, and died in Roxbury in 1861. Elizabeth Farnsworth, a daughter, was born on October 19, 1792, and died in Groton Center on February 2, 1884.

Like her brother, she attended the district school and academy. She was a woman of great mental capacity and of rare personality.

Luke Farnsworth, born in October, 1785, a brother of the preceding, lived on the old homestead from youth up, except for a brief period spent in Canada. He lived to be over ninety. His sons and daughters were scholars at the district school. Hon. Claudius Buchanan Farnsworth, who lived for many years at Pawtucket, R. I., was the eldest son of Luke and Sarah (Hartwell) Farnsworth, and was born in Canada, January 8, 1815. His boyhood days were passed on the farm in Groton, and he attended the town schools until he was fourteen. He

fitted for college at New Ipswich and Groton academies, and graduated at Harvard college in the class of 1841. He afterwards engaged in the practice of the law and later in manufacturing.

George H. Farnsworth, a pupil in 1851, was another son of Luke, and enlisted for the war of the rebellion in Company B, Massachusetts Sixth Regiment, and died several years ago. There were several Farnsworth girls who attended school in the years after 1850.

The Pollard family was one of the largest in the district and the boys and girls all attended school here. Jacob Pollard was born in Goffstown, N. H., and early in life came to Groton. He married, May 7, 1812, Betsey Davis, who was born in Groton, the daughter of David Davis. They lived on the farm of Mrs. Pollard's parents, and members of the Pollard family resided here for more than fifty years after 1828, when one-half interest in the farm was deeded to Jacob Pollard.

Solomon Frost, who lived at the top of the long hill above the school had married Dorcas Hopkins, and there were three boys and a girl, pupils in the early period—Samuel Bailey, Solomon Gilman, Ebenezer Hopkins and Sarah Young. Samuel died when twenty, Solomon Gilman removed to Fitchburg, Sarah was the fourth of the five wives of Dr. Norman Smith. Ebenezer Hopkins Frost had the distinction when living in Boston of being the first patient of Dr. Morton, the discoverer of ether, to be etherized for a surgical operation. All these, as children, attended the district school and Groton academy.

There was a kinship between the Stanley, Hopkins and Frost families all living on the hill in the early part of the last century. Jeduthan and Dorcas Stanley had a daughter Dorcas, who married Ebenezer Hopkins, and Ebenezer and Dorcas Hopkins had a daughter Dorcas, who married Solomon Frost, and they were the parents of the children above mentioned.

The widow Hopkins died in 1840, and the place was sold in February, 1843, by Mr. and Mrs. Frost to Joseph Foye. Mr. Frost died in March of the same year and the widow and children went to live with Aunt Nabby Stanley in the next house towards Groton, from which home Sarah was married. After the death of Aunt Nabby, February 22, 1863, the place was sold in April, by Mrs. Dorcas Frost, then living at Fitchburg, where she died in 1881.

The Levi Hildreth family came into the district about 1840, and at about this time there were several Hildreth children in the school.

One of these, John P. Hildreth, of Townsend, states that when he first attended school here, his family lived at a place called "The Dale," which is another place name to be added to the localities in Ayer. It applies to that part of the James Brook valley which lies now in Ayer, just below the old Reuben Hartwell farm, where the Hildreths lived. The term savors of old England and may have been given it by some settler who wished to perpetuate the name in some beautiful locality in America.

List of names of pupils at District No. 2 school, taken with few exceptions from the registers:

Achorn, Lizzie E., 1865-69.
Achorn, Minnie L., 1865-77.
Achorn, Albert W., 1868-75.
Achorn, Robert E., 1865-70.
Adams, Martha J., 1851.
Adams, Thomas E., 1851.
Adams, Almond, 1851.
Adams, Luther, 1851.
Ames, Amos L., 1868-72.
Andrew, Jessie M., 1894-96.
Barry, Edward, 1860.
Barry, James, 1859-60.
Bartemus, George H., 1857.
Barry, Mary, 1854.
Berquist, Lawrence, 1904-10.
Berquist, Irene, 1905-07.
Berquist, Grant T., 1908-10.
Berquist, Oscar W., 1890-93.
Berquist, George W., 1890-94.
Bessant, Luther, 1866.
Bessant, Margaret, 1857-61.
Beard, Charles, 1862.
Bigelow, Marjorie, 1900-01.
Bibby, William T., 1884-86.
Black, Donald D., 1884.
Bliss, Charles F., 1880-81.
Bishop, Flora E., 1880-81, L. A. 1886.
Bishop, Athella, 1877, L. A. 1879.
Bishop, Nellie, 1880-81.
Bishop, Sylvia, 1880-81.
Blood, George D., 1852.
Blood, Andrew, 1853-59.
Blood, John, 1853-59.
Blood, Roxanna, 1853-57.
Blood, Charles, 1853-59.
Blood, Nancy M., 1853.
Blood, Frank, 1854-59.
Blood, Olive, 1853-55.
Blood, Maria M., 1855.
Blood, Henry, 1859-60.
Blood, Eliza, 1856.

No. 34. Pollard House.

No. 50. House of the Big Roof.

No. 41. The Benjamin Hall Place. Burned Feb. 13, 1891.

No. 15. Gallot House.

Blood, Charles N., 1904-06.
Billings, Henry A., 1855.
Billings, Elizabeth L., 1856.
Bowles, Howard J., 1902-06.
Bowels, Dorothy L., 1902-05.
Bond, Alice, 1860-64.
Bond, Ella P., 1860-68.
Brown, Daniel, 1851-56.
Brown, William, 1851-57.
Brown, Jane, 1851-54.
Brown, Catherine, 1851-57.
Brown, George, 1851.
Brown, John, 1851.
Burgess, Ellen M., 1852-53.
Burgess, Hattie, 1876.
Butler, Ella G., 1861.
Brennan, Francis M., 1854.
Boothboy, Fannie, 1877.
Carruth, Alberta, 1876.
Carrig, John, 1868.
Carrig, Lizzie, 1868.
Carrig, Margaret, 1868.
Careton, George S., 1884.
Chase, George S., 1853-64.
Chase, Walter, 1863-68, L. A. 1876.
Chase, Maria F., 1859-68, L. A. 1871.
Chase, Fannie S., 1863.
Chase, Mary E., 1853-64.
Chase, Sarah F., 1857-61.
Carney, Mary A., 1857-59.
Carney, Katherine, 1857-59.
Chisholm, Flora E., 1910.
Clapp, Austin W., 1891.
Clough, Warren A., 1889-95, L. A. 1897.
Clough, Marion L., 1891-99, L. A. 1897.
Chesborough, Charles C., 1894.
Chesborough, Samuel, 1887.
Chesborough, Walter A., 1887-94.
Campbell, Katherine, 1852.
Campbell, Harriet, 1852.
Corey, John H., 1852-53.
Condon, C., 1856.
Condon, J., 1856.
Condon, W., 1856.
Corey, Lucy, 1862.
Culoon, Frank, 1855.
Culoon, Edward L., 1855.
Culoon, Susanna, 1855.
Croney, James, 1851-51.
Culver, James F., 1868-69.
Culver, George, 1869-70.
Culver, Charlotte F., 1868-76, L. A. 1877.
Culver, Alice I., 1870-72, L. A. 1880.
Culver, Grace A., 1875-81, L. A. 1883.
Culver, Herbert G., 1883-89.
Culver, Walter J., 1882-90.
Culver, Addie E., 1885-89.
Culver, Ethel E., 1885-86.
Culver, Ralph F., 1886-91.
Culver, John H., 1891-00.
Culver, Pauline M., 1889-96.
Culver, Roy A., 1896-07.
Cushing, Joseph M., 1857.
Cushing, Anna H., 1857-59.
Cutts, Florence, 1870-72.
Cutts, Winfield, 1870-73.
Collins, Nellie M., 1875-76.
Davis, Ruth,1900-07.
Davis, Carrie F., 1900-07.
Davis, Harry E., 1906-10.
Davis, Alice M., 1909-10.
Delano, Ida May, 1900.
Delano, Ada F., 1900.
Denahy, Michael J., 1894-05.
Denahy, Jerry L., 1894-95.
Denahy, Catherine, 1895.
Dickinson, Henrietta, 1859-70.
Dickinson, Robert C., 1859-63, L. A. 1865.
Dickinson, Edward D., 1859-64, L. A. 1860-63.
Dickinson, Joseph B., 1868-75, L. A. 1879.
Dickinson, Helen S., 1868-76, L. A. 1880.
Dickinson, Mabel C., 1896-04.
Dickerman, Doris G., 1909-10.
Dickson, Katy M., 1873-74.
Dibble, Joe, 1869-70.
Donahue, Daniel, 1869-73.
Donahue, Nellie, 1868-76.
Donahue, Margaret, 1868-70.
Donahue, Thomas, 1872-75.
Donahue, Alice, 1880-86.
Donahue, James, 1881-84.
Donahue, John, 1874-82.
Donahue, Susie, 1882-90.
Donlon, Michael, 1851-53.
Donlon, Patrick, 1851-53.
Drake, Alden W., 1887.
Dragon, Olive, 1888.
Dorrity, Patrick, 1853.
Dutton, Julius C., 1855.
Dutton, George, 1855.
Dutton, Ormand N., 1855.
Dutton, Mary E., 1855.
Duffy, John C., 1886.
Duffy, Annie H., 1886.
Duren, Mary J., 1851-52.
Duren, George B., 1852.
Duren, Charles, 1852-60.
Dyboll, Edward, 1910.
Dyboll, Albert, 1910.
Dunham, Etta, 1868-70.
Doroughty, Willie, 1872-73.
Eaton, Walter, 1886-87.
Eaton, Lamont R., 1886-87.
Farnsworth, Elizabeth H., 1851-60.
Farnsworth, Sarah A., 1851-63.
Farnsworth, George H., 1851-63, L. A. 1861.
Farnsworth, Ellis, 1851-55.
Farnsworth, Mary J., 1853-64.
Farnsworth, Sarah E., 1853-57.
Farnsworth, Anna, 1853.
Farnsworth, John, 1855.
Farnsworth, Isabelle, 1856.
Farnsworth, Elizabeth, 1861-63.
Farnsworth, George W., 1903-08.
Farnsworth, Lydia G., 1903-09.
Farnsworth, Edith H., 1904-09.
Farnsworth, Mildred E., 1909-10.
Felch, Ell, 1854.
Ferrin, Abbie, 1863-64.
Ferrin, Mary, 1863-64.
Ferrin, Edward C., 1863-64.
Ferrin, B. J., 1864.
Fitts, George B., 1857.
Fitts, Eugenia, 1860.
Felch, Edward P., 1887.
Fitzgerald, Florence, 1895.
Folkins, Florence J., 1899-07.
Fox, Halburton, 1883-84.
Ford, George, 1860, L. A. 1864.
French, Samuel P., 1870-72.
Fuller, Hattie W., 1881-83.
Fuller, Frank, 1864.
Gaut, Nellie A., 1869-73, L. A. 1871.
Gaut, Franklin S., 1869-73, L. A. 1876.
Gilson, Fannie E., 1851-56.
Gilson, William B., 1851-57.
Gilson, Lucy E., 1851-61.
Gilson, Mary E., 1851-60.
Gilson, Henry A., 1851-57.
Gilson, George H., 1851-62.
Gilson, Franklin E., 1857-69, L. A. 1870.
Gilson, Lilla A., 1859-69.
Gilson, Sumner, 1863-64.
Gilson, Henry H., 1870-81.
Gilson, Susie, 1886.
Gilson, Earl W., 1891-99.
Gilson, Charlotte V., 1899-00.

Gilson, Mildred E., 1901-05.
Gilson, Cyril W. B., 1903-10.
Gilson, Robina, 1905.
Goding, John W., 1874-78, A. H. S. 1883.
Goding, T. Edgar, 1884-88.
Goding, T. Arthur, 1874-76.
Gill, William H., 1857-59.
Gill, Jane E., 1857.
Gilson, William M., 1851-55.
Graves, Joseph, 1856-64, L. A. 1865.
Graves, Benjamin F., 1857, L. A. 1862.
Graves, Samuel L., 1857, L. A. 1860.
Graves, Henry G., 1857, L. A. 1863.
Graves, Ellen, 1862-70.
Graves, Susie, 1870-80.
Graves, Fred, 1875-82, A. H. S. 1886.
Graves, Lizzie, 1874-82.
Graves, Mabel, 1881-90.
Gove, Everett (Everhard), 1881.
Gove, Clarence, 1881.
Gove, Henry, 1881.
Goodwin,Mabel E., 1884-86.
Goodwin, Harry P., 1884.
Giddings, Eugene, 1889.
Giddings, Isabella A., 1895-96.
Grimes, Delia B., 1890-91.
Grimes, Andrew J., 1890-91.
Gerry, Cyril, 1906-08.
Gray, Katie 1862-69.
Gould, John, 1862.
Gould, Opphia J., 1851, L. A. 1852.
Hackett, Mary A., 1860-64.
Hackett, Ellen, 1860-64.
Hackett, Michael, 1860.
Hackett, John, 1861-69.
Hackett, Willie, 1862-74.
Hackett, Kate, 1862-72.
Hackett, James, 1869-75, L. A. 1879.
Hackett, Mary A., 1882-84.
Hart, James, 1859.
Hart, John, 1859.
Hartwell, John S., 1851-55.
Hartwell, Nathaniel C., 1851-55.
Hartwell, Harris C., 1859, L. A. 1863.
Hartwell, Benjamin H., 1859, L. A. 1863.
Hartwell, Samuel N., 1859-60.
Hartwell, Lottie E., 1859-64, L. A. 1865.
Hazen, Thomas L., 1853.
Hazen, Caroline B., 1862.
Hazen, Louisa C., 1859-62.
Hazen, Emily P., 1859-62.
Haley, Henry, 1861.
Haley, Jeremiah, 1856.
Hart, Lizzie, 1862.
Hennigan, Mary, 1870-76.
Hennigan, Kate, 1870-76, L. A. 1881.
Hennigan, Ellen, 1870-80.
Hennigan, John T., 1872-80, L. A. 1883.
Hamlet, William, 1872.
Hamlet, Fred, 1872.
Hamlet, Eddie, 1872.
Harris, Elinor, 1884.
Harris, Lizzie, 1884.
Harris, George C., 1884.
Harris, Benjamin, 1884.
Harris, Elmer L., 1904.
Harris, Everett E., 1904.
Harris, Viola K., 1909-10.
Harriman, Elizabeth, 1856-57.
Harriman, Augustus B., 1903-10.
Harriman, Gordon F., 1908.
Hart, John, 1900-07.
Hannis, Annie M., 1880, L. A. 1880.
Higgins, Albertina, 1865-70.
Hills, Minerva C., 1870-75.
Hills, Mary A., 1870-75.
Hodgman, Nancy Hannah, 1851-53.
Hodgman, George H., 1851-59.
Hodgman, Harriet W., 1851.
Hodgman, Lucilla H., 1852-53, L. A. 1854.
Hodgman, George E., 1851-54.
Houghton, Charles, 1851.
Harlow, Esteane, 1889.
Holbrook, Eunice, 1900-01.
Huebner, Thekla V., 1896-04.
Huebner, Leonita, 1899-07.
Huebner, Reginald, S., 1902-08.
Huebner, Herman E., 1894-01, L. A. 1902.
Huebner, Nimie, 1894-99.
Hulen, George, 1894-95.
Hulen, Bertrand, 1894-95.
Hurley, Mary, 1902.
Haskins, Araminta, 1872.
Jones, John H., 1884.
Jewett, Fred R., 1888-90.
Jewett, Annie M., 1888-91.
Jewett, Mabel M., 1890.
Jewett, Maud A., 1905-07.
Jewett, Harold E., 1905-07.
Johnson, Charles K., 1901.
Kane, John, 1854-55.
Kendall, Eliza A., 1861-62.
Kendall, George, 1861.
Keyes, L. Lizzie, 1864-69, L. A. 1871.
Keating, Susie E., 1880-84, A. H. S. 1889, Bridgewater Normal.
Keating, Mary J., 1880-90, G. H. S., Bridgewater Normal.
Keating, Charles D., 1880-89.
Keating, John F., 1880-86.
Keating, George H., 1880-84.
Keating, Lillie, 1884-90.
Keating, Helen L., 1886-95, G. H. S.
Keating, Charlotte, 1891-99, G. H. S.
Keegan, Nancy, 1905-09.
Keegan, Catherine I., 1905-09.
Keegan, Joseph O., 1905-09.
Keegan, Jeremiah F., 1905-09.
Lunt, Emily W., 1851.
Long, M. A., 1856.
Long, James, 1856.
Long, Mary E., 1888.
Long, Michael, 1888-89.
Lamont, Mary A., 1888-91.
Levers, Stenie J., 1868-69.
Leighton, Mary A., 1859.
Leighton, Calvin D., 1859.
Lawrence, Billie, 1864.
Lawrence, Horace, 1864.
Livingston, Anna, 1867-69.
Livingston, Joseph W., 1864-69.
Livingston, Charles, 1867-69.
Legnard, Grace, 1880-82.
Leathe, Emma T., 1880.
Lewis, Joseph, D., 1882-91, L. A. 1891.
Lewis, Alfred G., 1888-94.
Lund, Evangeline, 1905-07.
Lyons, Daniel, 1872-73.
Lyons, John, 1872-73.
Magoon, Oscar L., 1871-72.
Mandigo, Jessie H., 1902.
Mandigo, Henry J., 1902.
Marcy, Arline, 1875.
Mason, Joseph C., 1851, L. A. 1854.
Mason, Alfred D., 1875-76, L. A. 1877.
Mason, Clara C., 1875-76.
Mayo, Merle R., 1887-89.
May, Edith H., 1881.
May, Alonzo F., 1880-84.
May, Edward H., 1880.
Marble, Carrie E., 1883-84.
Maxwell, William T., 1880.
McConlouge, Francis, 1863.
McConlouge, Mary, 1863.
McConlouge, Thomas, 1863.
McCarthy, John, 1875-76.
McDermott, George, 1863.

McDonald, Thomas, 1874.
McGovern, Thomas W., 1907-09.
McGovern, Nellie M., 1907-09.
McGovern, Lizzie C., 1907-09.
Messer, Walter, 1854.
Messer, Emma, 1861-64, L. A. 1865.
Messer, George Fred, 1861-64.
Messer, Abbott M., 1862.
Messer, Maud, 1880-82.
Messer, Mary C., 1882.
McDonald, Thomas F., 1883.
Messer, Jane, 1905.
Messer, Genevieve, 1905.
Miller, Henry W., 1908-10.
Miller, Delvina, 1908-10.
Miller, Lewis E., 1908-10.
Miller, Rowell, 1908-10.
Miller, Irene, 1909-10.
McNerny, Thomas, 1886.
McNerny, Kate, 1886.
Moors, Mary F., 1851-55, L. A. 1853.
Moors, Elizabeth A., 1851-59.
Moors, Fanny F., 1852-56.
Moors, Lucy, 1854-55.
Monroe, Charles L., 1854.
Monroe, Peter F., 1854.
Morrison, Christine, M., 1899.
Moulton, Adella, 1862-68.
Moulton, Harry E., 1875.
Moulton, Wilson N., 1861-64.
Munster, William, 1908.
Murray, James, 1854.
Needham, Elmer, 1859.
Newman, Charles, 1860-63, L. A. 1866.
Newton, Lizzie M., 1864.
Newton, William H., 1864.
Newton, 1864.
Nimmo, Philip, 1890-91.
Nimmo, Donald C., 1902-04.
Northrup, Bertha, 1902-03.
Nowill, Herbert, 1910.
O'Day, Michael, 1851.
Ober, Jessie, 1880-81.
Ober, J. Frank, 1880-82.
O'Brien, Nellie, S., 1880-81.
O'Connell, Josephine C., 1908-10.
Oliver, Rachel M., 1856.
O'Neil, Michael, 1857-61.
O'Neill, Thomas, 1870-72.
O'Neil, Edward, 1870-72.
Otis, George A., 1855.
Otis, Lucy R., 1855.
Otis, Samuel, 1855.
Otis, Harrison G., 1855.
Page, Abel Dexter, 1851-52.
Page, Luther, 1851-55.
Parker, Josephine M., 1851-52.
Page, Edward C., 1881-89, L. A. 1894.
Parker, Luther L., 1854.
Parker, Augustus P., 1854.
Parker, Sybil D., 1858-59.
Pate, Mary A., 1864.
Pate, James, 1907-08.
Patten, Francis, 1859.
Patten, Simon, 1858.
Palmer, Ernest R., 1910.
Palmer, Randolph, 1910.
Palmer, Lloyd, 1910.
Pearson, Stephen C., 1853.
Pike, Willie, 1868.
Pollard, Mary J., 1851-62.
Pollard, Florence M., 1853-61.
Pollard, Franklin H., 1857-62.
Powell, Mary C., 1895-01.
Powell, Charles A., 1895-01.
Powell, George E., 1895-01.
Powell, John B., 1896-01.
Proctor, Anna M., 1855-57.
Proctor, Sanford P., 1855-62.
Penders, Nellie, 1877-78.
Rand, William, 1869-70.
Rand, Winnie, 1869-70.
Rand, Albert W., 1871.
Raymond, Albert C. S., 1891.
Richardson, Joseph H., 1853.
Richardson, Mary E., 1856-59, L. A. 1858.
Richardson, Rufus B., 1856--59, L. A. 1863, Yale 1869.
Richardson, Alfred A., 1856-59.
Richardson, Charles H., 1864, L. A. 1875, Andover 1875, Yale 1880.
Richardson, Edward A., 1864-75, L. A. 1875, Yale.
Richardson, Edith H., 1880-84, A. H. S. 1892.
Richardson, Arthur B., 1877-84, L. A. 1883.
Richardson, Francis J., 1877-84, A. H. S. 1892.
Richardson, Bertha C., 1882-86.
Richardson, Florence J., 1877-78.
Richards, I. J., 1864.
Rice, Stella R., 1890-91.
Reardon, John D., 1891-96.
Robinson, Luther A., 1869-70.
Robinson, Mary F., 1874.
Robinson, Ida F., 1873-75.
Robinson, George H., 1871-75.
Robbins, Effie M., 1891-94.
Robbins, Charles E., 1891-94.
Robbins, Frances J., 1891-94.
Robbins, Leon R., 1891-94.
Robbins, Louisa L., 1894.
Roots, Nelson H., 1871-74.
Roots, Alice E., 1874.
Roots, Annie M., 1872-74.
Russell, Artemas, 1873.
Russell, George C., 1884-90, A. H. S. 1896.
Reardon, Christopher P., 1895.
Rynn, Thomas, 1864-76.
Rynn, William, 1864-76.
Rynn, Nellie M., 1868-76.
Rynn, Annie T., 1876-81.
Powell, Almond, 1868.
Sargent, Harold H., 1902-07, G. H. S.
Sargent, Aroline H., 1905-09.
Sargent, David P., 1907-10.
Sargent, Ralph, 1907-10.
Sargent, Esther, 1909.
Sargent, Stella C., 1910.
Sargent, Joseph H., 1887-98.
Sawtell, Mary F., 1851-60.
Scanlon, Susan, 1870-72.
Scanlon, Charlotte F., 1870-76.
Scanlon, Thomas, 1871-76.
Scanlon, John, 1872.
Saunders, Ansel, 1861-64.
Searles, Emma, 1868-70.
Sawyer, Alice E., 1882-84.
Scott, Blanche A., 1898-99.
Scott, Eva M., 1898-03.
Scott, Bertha R., 1898-01.
Scott, George W., 1898-03.
Scott, Bernard A., 1900-05.
Scott, Carrie B., 1902-08.
Scott, Raymond E., 1904-08.
Scott, Stephen A., 1905-07.
Scott, Everett W., 1908.
Singer, Blanche, 1906.
Sivret, Helen T., 1899.
Sivret, Marion E., 1899-00.
Sivret, Harold F., 1900.
Sharbono, Fred, 1906-08.
Sharbono, Perley W., 1908.
Scanlon, Joseph H., 1900.
Smale, Oswald, 1900.

Smith, Charles, 1868-69.
Smith, Albert C., 1887-88.
Smith, George Gilman, 1887-91, G. H. S.
Smith, Lawrence B., 1887-91, G. H. S.
Smith, Edward C., 1887-91, L. A. 1897.
Smith, Francis W., 1889-96, L. A. 1900.
Smith, Theophilus G., 1894-99, L. A. 1901.
Smith, Franklin O., 1899.
Sparks, Ella E., 1868-69.
Sparks, Hattie H., 1868-69.
Sparks, Levi, 1868.
Sparks, Malcolm C., 1868-69.
Stewart, Carrie, 1869-70.
Stewart, Luella, 1869-70.
Stewart, Flora, 1869.
Stewart, Hiram, 1869, L. A. 1871.
Stone, Louisa E., 1851-59.
Stone, George H., 1851-61.
Stone, William H., 1851-64.
Stone, Mary A., 1851-53.
Stone, Martha E., 1851-53.
Stone, Ward L., 1851-53.
Stone, Albert, 1851.
Stone, Emma L., 1852-64.
Stone, J. F., 1856-57.
Stone, Mary F., 1870-81.
Stone, Jennie C., 1867-78.
Stone, Fannie E., 1870-83.
Stone, Clara L., 1875-82.
Stone, H. Austin, 1874-80.
Stone, Abbie H., 1883-91.
Swan, Emory C., 1884.
Taylor, Fannie E., 1886-94.
Taylor, Herbert W., 1886-94.
Thatcher, Michael, 1856.
Tibbetts, Georgianna, 1874-75.
Tibbetts, Jennie, 1874-75.
Torrey, Linnie W., 1874-76, L. A. 1882.
Tuttle, Lena, 1869-80, L. A. 1880.
Tuttle, Arthur C., 1869-78.
Tuttle, Cora F., 1874-83.
Tuttle, Frank F., 1883-87.
Tuttle, Louisa E., 1873-76.
Tuttle, Clarence A., 1890-99, L. A. 1900.
Tuttle, Howard G., 1892-00.
Tuttle, Lillian G., 1900-08, G. H. S. 1911.
Turner, Helen M., 1872-75.
Twitchell, Mabel A., 1900-01.
Twitchell, Harry A., 1900-01.
Waitt, Ellsworth, 1864.
Waitt, Lizzie E., 1860-64, G. H. S.
Waitt, Charles H., 1869-78, L. A. 1879.
Waitt, George E., 1872-80.
Watson, Charles H., 1879, L. A. 1880.
Watson, Mary A., 1880-82, L. A. 1882.
Watson, Sarah L., 1880-83.
Watson, Edwin F., 1884.
Weber, Eleanor May, 1897-00, A. H. S. 1907.
Weber, Marion L., 1897-03.
Walden, William H., 1851.
Wheeler, Sarah A., 1852.
Wheeler, Eva R., 1898-00.
Wheeler, Hazel, 1899-00.
Whalen, Margaret, 1899.
Whittaker, Laura A., 1880-82.
Whittaker, Minnie, 1882.
Whitney, Alvin G., 1888-91, L. A. 1902.
Williams, William J., 1896.
Williams, Annie T., 1901-03.
Wing, Frank H., 1875-76.
Wing, Fred, 1875-76.
Wonson, Asa M., 1900-01.
Wonson, Jennie M., 1900.
Wood, Edward Addison, 1857, L. A. 1858.
Wood, William Curtis, 1857, L. A. 1858.
Wood, Vesta, 1894-96.
Wood, Wilma, 1894-02.
Wood, Henry, 1894-03.
Wood, George E., 1901-05.
Wood, Sarah E., 1901-04.
Wood, Elmer J., 1902-10.
Woods, Laura J., 1903-08.
Wood, Herbert B., 1905-07.
Woods, Hattie, 1908.
Wood, Vernon F., 1908-09.
Wilis, Benedict J., 1908-09.
Workman, Ruth E., 1902-09.
Workman, Horace W., 1902.
Workman, Edith M., 1909-10.
Willard, Stedman A., 1853-55.
Willard, Lydia S., 1843-56, L. A. 1851.
Williams, Lucy A., 1870.
Wright, Maria C., 1851-59, L. A. 1854.
Wright, Sarah J., 1851-64, L. A. 1866.
Wright, Fannie E., 1851-64, L. A. 1860.
Wyeth, Adaline D., 1854.
Wyeth, Warren, 1854-55.
Wyeth, Augusta E., 1854.

The John M. Gilson family lived for many years in the district and Mr. Gilson was prudential committee at times. His home was just below the school and has been a favorite boarding place for the teachers. We can imagine the young men found it pleasant in the company of Mr. Gilson's interesting daughters. His sons and daughters all attended here and some of his grandchildren are now pupils.

Mr. Gilson built a new house after his purchase of the farm in 1849, of the Levi Stone heirs and the old house which stood deserted across the road southerly of the present one was a favorite playhouse for the scholars of those days until sold to a Mr. Fitz and moved away.

Valancourt Stone was the only son of Abraham Stone and attended school here for several years. He was born in 1829, and died on December 15, 1906, aged 77 yrs. 2 mos. 10 days, at Cambridge, Mass., where he had resided for several years after leaving the town of Ayer. His house in the last-named town, was opposite the entrance to the town park at the reservoir.

The Harriman family was living at the well-known Moors farm in 1857, and had representatives in the school. In 1894, Isaac Harriman, jr., returned to the district and purchased the Ephraim Sawtell or Gaut place, where he now resides, with his son and family.

John and Benjamin Hartwell both settled in this district at about the same time, in 1846. John bought the

No. 19. The John M. Gilson House. Built in 1852.

No. 12. Ephraim Sawtell Home.

Rufus B. Richardson, Ph. D. Born April 18, 1845.

George M. Shattuck place and Benjamin built a new house on part of the Benjamin Hall farm. They were sons of Deacon Samuel and Caroline Matilda Wright Hartwell of Groton.

Samuel Noah Hartwell was the only one of John's children who attended the school. He is now living at Germania, Wis., and is town clerk, librarian and a general business man at that place.

The sons of Benjamin, Benjamin H. and Harris C., became distinguished in the councils of the state, both being members of the legislature and the latter a member of the state senate and its president.

The services of Benjamin H. Hartwell in this vicinity as teacher, physician, school committee and the promoter of all work for the public good, will never be forgotten. Harris was a lawyer in Fitchburg and both died in the very midst of their useful careers much lamented.

Emma C. Hartwell was a daughter of Benjamin and a brief account of her is given among the list of teachers.

In a pamphlet heretofore published, entitled "The Community at Groton," is an extended account of the Walter Dickson family. The names of the sons and daughters will be found among the early pupils. They attended school here between 1838 and 1843, and three of these—Henry, Almira and Mary, with the younger one Caroline, accompanied their parents to Palestine on their mission of humanity and suffered greatly in a brutal assault made by brigands in that country.

Rufus B. Richardson was born in Westford, Mass., April 18, 1845, son of Joseph and Lucy M. Richardson, attended this school 1856-59, graduated at Lawrence academy in 1865, after his return from the war, and Yale college in 1869. He studied for the ministry at Yale Divinity school and was licensed to preach. After a brief period of preaching, he was appointed a tutor at Yale, followed by an appointment as professor in Greek languages at Indiana State university, and later at Dartmouth college. He was at the head of the American School of Archeology and Research at Athens, Greece, for eleven years and made important discoveries in the excavations at Corinth. He is a clear thinker and writer, and a lecturer upon subjects of archeological interest. He married Alice E., daughter of the late Henry C. Bowen of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Woodstock, Conn., and resides at Woodstock.

One old pupil in 1855-62, Sanford P. Proctor, says: "After leaving Mr. Wright I enlisted in the navy and at the close of the war, was sent to Europe for two years; then sent to India, China and Japan for four years; then to South America, one year. Was married here in Waterbury, Conn., in 1878, and have lived here ever since. We have two daughters living in New Haven. My wife and I are passing the evening of our lives here in Waterbury, and talking over the past."

George Ford was the son of Rev. George Ford, a missionary to southern India in November, 1846. The son George boarded in the family of Ephraim Sawtell while his father was doing missionary work in various places in the United States.

Benjamin F., Samuel L. and Henry G. Graves, residents of District No. 3 in 1857, when that school was temporarily closed, attended this school.

Samuel L. Graves graduated at Amherst college in 1870, is a successful lawyer in Fitchburg and in 1891, was elected mayor of that city.

Franklin Earland Gilson was born on September 7, 1852, son of John M. Gilson, attended Lawrence academy after leaving No. 2, and studied dentistry with the Colton Dental association in Boston. Began practice in Groton in 1880, and at present is one of the most successful dentists in the state, being located in Ayer. He is a successful fruit grower, owning one of the largest apple orchards in Groton, in which town he resides. His interest in Moors school is deeply rooted, continued from his boyhood days, when he was a pupil, to the present time, and is further shown by the attendance of three of his children there, though he resides nearer to the village schools. To Dr. Gilson, the writer wishes to extend appreciation for assistance rendered in the securing of much information from the older pupils who are now living.

Everhard, Clarence and Henry Gove were sons of Edward H. Gove, once secretary of the state of Maine, who bought and lived for about a year at the Alva Wright farm.

James Hackett is an officer at the truant school for boys at North Chelmsford, Mass.

Charles, Frank and Henry Blood were for many years employed on the old Fitchburg railroad, all at one time on one train as engineer, conductor and brakeman. The engineer, Charles, is still employed as such on the same division and the other two have died.

In the year 1857, after the breaking up of the "community," as a religious sect, the private school previously held in the "Old shop," was not maintained, and from out the west came advise to the remaining families to have their boys and girls attend the town schools. As one of them remarks he felt like a "fish out of water," but they had good friends in the teacher of 1858, Mr. Bancroft and in Nathaniel Sawtell, the prudential committee for 1858-59-60, who had to come over and talk pretty strongly to some of the older boys who were inclined to make life at school miserable for them.

Samuel N. Hartwell of Wisconsin, writes: "We all read two verses in the Testament each morning, and then Mr. Bancroft offered prayer, standing behind his desk. Mr. Bancroft was always very kind to the community children and gave us much credit for being good and studious. I have always had pleasant memories of my going to school at school No. 2 in Groton, Mass."

The following is a sketch of a former pupil who like his father, Joseph H. Richardson, attended school here for a short period. This was published in Turner's Public Spirit shortly after his death, which occurred on July 1, 1894:

"Charles H. Richardson was born in Groton, in 1857, being the eldest of a family of nine children. His boyhood years were spent with his parents on a small farm in that part of the town known as "the community" and near where is now located the Groton School; afterward working somewhat with his father at the carpenter's trade. Becoming at an early age familiar with all the branches taught in the common schools in the vicinity of his home, he attended the Ayer high school, graduating with its earliest class. He attended the academy and later Phillips academy, from which he graduated. He then entered Yale college, graduating with honor in the class of '80. Immediately upon leaving Yale, before returning to his home, he took a civil service examination, passing successfully, near the head of the list. On August 16, 1880, he was appointed to a clerkship in the patent office at Washington. There he was from time to time promoted upon his merits as shown by competitive examination, from a $1200 position to that of first assistant examiner at a salary of $1800 a year. When taken down with his last sickness he was acting principal examiner, with prospect of an early promotion to the position of principal."

His wife was Anna Bancroft, daughter of the late Edmund Dana Bancroft of Ayer, and she taught Moors school in 1878-79.

Edward Adams Richardson, a pupil in 1864 and again from 1870 to 1875, was born in Groton Junction, November 24, 1859. After leaving this school and the excellent methods of instruction of Mrs. Torrey, he attended Lawrence academy, graduating in the class of 1879. He entered Yale in the class of 1883, and left college in his junior year to take up a business life. Has served the towns of Shirley and Ayer in public positions and now resides in Ayer. His name is also found among the list of pupils who have taught school after leaving No. 2. He is a son of Joseph H. and Mary Hartwell Richardson, and is of a family which has furnished several scholars at this school.

Amos L. Ames, pupil 1868-72, was elected a selectman of Groton in the year 1911.

Henry A. Billings, 1885, became a noted turfman at Chicago, where his father was a wealthy gas manufacturer.

The Brown children of 1851, are living in New York and Pennsylvania at the present time, and were brothers and sisters of the late Michael Brown of Ayer, an older son of Mrs. Ellen Brown, a widow, who lived at the "pink house" south of James brook.

No. 44. Benjamin Hartwell House. Built 1817—Moved 1904.

No. 45. Richardson Home. Built 1851.

E. Dana Bancroft. 1821—1896.

George B. Duren is a successful commission merchant in dry goods in New York city. He was a member of Company B, 26th Massachusetts Regiment in the war of the rebellion. His parents, Robert and Betsey Duren, died, the one July 25, 1886, aged 82 years and 8 months, the other on July 7, 1886, aged 82 years and 8 months.

John Willard Goding was born at Waterville, Me., April 5, 1866, the son of T. Madison Goding, who came into the district in 1874. John and his brothers attended Moors school and when the family removed to Ayer he entered the high school there, where he graduated in the class of 1883. During his school days in Ayer he assisted George H. Hill as a druggist clerk, and in 1884, entered West Point military academy, where he ranked high in his studies.

He was a favorite in all the schools he attended and a young man of great promise. He died suddenly at West Point at the age of nineteen, apparently up to that time in perfect health, after running up stairs to his room.

Alline E. Marcy will be remembered by a few of the past pupils as having attended the school for a short time while her aunt, Mrs. Ellen M. Torrey, taught and with whom she lived at the time. Miss Marcy is the daughter of Dwight and Alline Williams Marcy, and was born at Tolland, Conn., in February, 1868. Her mother was one of the Williams family of Chicopee row, a family which furnished men and women as teachers for the schools of Groton for many years. Miss Marcy is a graduate of Boston Law school and is a practicing lawyer in Boston and was among the first young ladies to graduate from that institution.

Ralph Farnsworth Culver, son of James and Mary Holland Culver, was born on August 1, 1881, in Groton, graduated at the Lowell Textile school and as a chemist was employed at Littleton, Providence and Pawtucket, and then was head dyer for the Arnold Print Works, North Adams. He is now superintendent of the Hollis-ton mill at Norwood, Mass., and is quite a successful man along the lines of his chosen work. He has been a director and trustee of the institution in Lowell at which he secured his technical training.

The five sons of Theophilus Gilman Smith, who resides on the old Levi Stone and John M. Gilson farm, have all extended the education received here by attending the high school and Lawrence academy at Groton. Francis went to Tufts college, became a civil engineer and was employed by the United States government in the Phillipine Islands. Edward went to Williams college, Lawrence took a course at the Massachusetts Agricultural college and Theophilus, jr., attended the Lowell Textile school. George attended the Groton high school and all the brothers have excellent postions.

It may be interesting to state that Nathan F. Culver once told his oldest daughter, Mary Elizabeth, that he and her mother often ploughed their way across the very farm they afterwards owned when they were pupils together at No. 2, one winter. They then lived at the Amos Farnsworth farm and the boy led the way to school, breaking the path through the deep snow for his future wife.

When public spelling matches were the rage in the New England towns, the schoolhouse was opened on several occasions in the evenings for a neighborhood contest and lamps were brought in and a generally social time was had. The presence of the fixed seats probably was all that prevented a country dance to wind up the meeting.

So in the earlier days, spirit lamps were brought by every pupil to the writing schools given by some peripatetic teacher. The evening prayer meeting held here in the revival period of 1871, gives another turn to our interest in the old schoolhouse and was intended to bring into the fold those in the district who were, perhaps, not affiliated with any particular church. These meetings were afterwards conducted at the "Yeast house," up on the hill, and later in a tent by evangelists from Boston.

Some of the more recent pupils have expressed their pleasant recollections of the ride to school with the teacher, Miss Longley, as she drove from the neighborhood of the "other road," and recall the great alarm and constant solicitude they had for her and Clarence Tuttle when they were injured

at the railroad crossing on December 23, 1891.

One of the "school girls" who lived quite near the school writes: "I remember with peculiar pleasure my five years of school life at the little brick schoolhouse on the hill. Time has brought many changes, but the fragrance of the mémory of my childhood days in Groton lingers very near my heart."

Many of the teachers at this school afterwards continued their labors as educators in other places and some became famous as the heads of classical and technical schools.

The following list of teachers will be found interesting for reference:

1802-3. John Farrar.
1817. Joshua Green.
1832. Curtis Lawrence.
1833. Elizabeth Jacobs.
1834. Maria Nutting.
1836. Clifford Belcher.
1840. Charles Dickson.
1841. Mary Brigham.
1842. Cynthia Jacobs.
1842-3. Samuel C. Wheeler.
1846. Curtis Lawrence.
1847. Harriet B. Harwood; Curtis Lawrence.
1848-9. Artemas Longley.
1849. Susan F. Lawrence; J. Otis Whitney.
1850. Agnes B. Pollard; Hollis Carr.
1851. Agnes B. Pollard; John P. Towne.
1852. Alma Willard; Alden Ladd.
1853. Agnes B. Pollard; Alden Ladd.
1854. Mary E. Andrews; Mary P. Baker.
1855. Frances O. Peabody; Charles O. Thompson.
1856. Jane E. Davis; Solomon Flagg.
1857. Amanda Parsons; Earl Webster Westgate.
1858. Elizabeth Graham; Cecil F. P. Bancroft.
1859. Susan F. Bancroft; Cecil F. P. Bancroft.
1860. Susan F. Bancroft; Rufus Livermore.
1861. Susan F. Bancroft; George A. Bruce.
1862. Julia M. Page; Charles E. Bigelow.
1863. Emma C. Hartwell; Emma C. Hartwell.
1864. Emma C. Hartwell; Benjamin H. Hartwell.
1865. Lizzie S. Jaquith; Maria C. Wright.
1866. Fannie E. Wright; James C. C. Parker.
1867. Fannie E. Wright; Jennie Wright.
1868. Cynthia A. Goodnow; Andrew F. Reed.
1869. Arabella Prescott; Andrew F. Reed.
1870. Genie A. Hunt; Jennie Wright, two terms.
1871. Jennie Wright, three terms.
1872. Jennie Wright; Lucy Hill; Ellen M. Torrey.
1873-4-5-6. Ellen M. Torrey.
1877. Ellen M. Torrey Mason, thirteen terms in all.
1877. Clara F. Woods, three terms.
1878. Clara F. Woods; Abby D. Penniman; J. H. Warren.
1879. Anna Bancroft, two terms; Sarah F. Longley, one term.
1880-1891. Sarah F. Longley, thirty-six terms.
1892. Dora L. Bailey taught in winter.
1892-3. Nannette J. May, three terms.
1893. M. Leola Wright, one term.
1893. Sarah F. Longley, one term.
1894-1907. Sarah F. Longley, forty-two terms.
1908. Mary H. Kimball, two terms.
1908-1911. Sarah F. Longley, ten terms.

John Farrar, who taught in the winter of 1802-3, was born in Lincoln, Mass., July 1, 1779, and graduated at Harvard college in the class of 1803. From 1805 to 1836, he was connected with the college as tutor and instructor in Greek in the early years and later held the chair of Hollis professor of mathematics and natural philosophy. He also published a text book on the elements of algebra. He died on May 8, 1853. The following is taken from a notice in the Christian Examiner for July 1853:

"Like other students of limited means he kept school in some country town during the winter vacations; once at Groton, where he formed a friendship with the elder member of the family of Lawrence, which lasted through their lives."

The following letter contributed to this article by Dr. Samuel A. Green, the historian of Groton and librarian of the Massachusetts Historical society, from his files, is so peculiarly

of interest locally that it is inserted here in complete form. It is addressed to Deacon Samuel Farrar of Lincoln, and that person was undoubtedly his father, as is shown by the customary respectful tone of letters in those days to parents.

There were evidently other student teachers in the party. The farm referred to was the one known in recent years as the Culver place, then owned and occupied by Major Joseph Moors, a soldier of the colonial and revolutionary wars, who was born on May 30, 1738. He was at the siege of Louisburg in 1758, and commanded a company under Col. William Prescott at the battle of Bunker Hill. He died on July 25, 1820. His son Benjamin was born in 1793, and died at Groton Center, August 16, 1853, after he sold the farm to Aaron Mason.

The Farrar letter is as follows:

Groton, January 1, 1803.

Dear Sir: After leaving you at Concord we proceeded on our journey as fast as the badness of the road would permit us to travel and arrived at Groton about 6 in the evening. We tarried at Mr. Hall's tavern near the meeting house over night and the next morning were conducted to our respective districts. On the friday following I opened my school with about twenty schollars. The number has been increasing since so that now I have about fifty. With respect to my boarding place I have such an one as I could wish. I live with one of the first farmers in the County of Middlesex. Maj. Moors the gentleman's name, keeps about forty head of cattle besides sheep, horses, turkeys, hogs, etc., etc. He sometimes raises seven or eight hundred bushels of rye, nearly as much corn and between ten and fifteen thousand weight of hops. His hops this last season brought him in upwards of one thousand dollars, but they cost him more labor to prepare them for the market than to get his hay. Last year they were cut off together with large fields of rye and apples in all probability for one hundred and fifty beryls of cyder, by a most remarkable hail storm near the first of June. The hail stones were many of them as large as partridge eggs and fell in such quantities and with such violence as to break all the glass of the buildings faceing the wind, and to cover the floors of houses with soot and black hail stones. The storm happened on Monday, when it was very warm, and, altho' it lasted but on[e] hour and an half, the hail stones were knee deep in a certain tray fashion place near here on the Friday following. Parson Write [Rev. Phineas Wright] of Boulton, preaching here the succeeding Sunday, picked up hail stones in the road and carried home for a show. Orchards were so stripped and bruised that they have borne but little since and large dints in the buildings about here still remain as monuments of this tremendous storm.

I live, sir, with a very hospitable and benevolent people. My accomodations are very good. I live about one quarter of a mile from school and about two miles from meeting.

We have today, sir, experienced a very pleasant and agreeable commencement of a new year. While it reminds of the benevolence and the continued mercy of Providence, ought it not to lead us to reflect on the quick succession of years, on the shortness and the value of life, to consider and to correct the errors of the past year, and to fortify our minds with such principles of virtue and piety, as shall preserve us in the pleasant and peaceful paths of wisdom. You, sir, and the rest of the family whether at home or absent I m[ost] cordially wish a happy new year, and many yet to come. I acknowledge the debt of gratitude. I feel a tender attachment in the family. Every new scene of life leads me to value more and more highly those habits and principles imbibed in early youth, for which I am indebted to kind and obliging Parents. I wish, sir, to hear from home, particularly of the accident which James lately met with, of his health, of Samuel's, what doing, etc., etc. My health, sir, God be praised, is good, and think not, sir, that I am unconsious of the important blessing.

JOHN FARRAR.

One of the early teachers was Joshua Green, the father of Hon. Samuel A. Green, the historian of Groton and the present librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Genealogical society, born on March 16, 1830. Dr. Green the elder, was born in Wendell, Mass., October 8, 1797. He attended the academies at New Salem, Westfield and Milton, and graduated at Harvard in the class of 1818, and took his M. D. degree at the Harvard Medical school in 1821. It was during his Harvard course that he taught the school here for one winter and boarded on Farmers' row, in the family of Major Samuel Lawrence, whose daughter Eliza, he married in January 5, 1824.

He began the practise of his profession in Sunderland in March 1823, but returned to Groton in the spring of 1825, where he continued in his profession for many years. He represented the town in the legislature in 1836 and 1837, was a trustee of the

academy from 1831 to 1867. He had a fondness for genealogical research, which his son has inherited to a marked degree. In 1849, he was chosen a corresponding member of the New England Historical and Genealogical society. After the death of his wife he went to live with his daughter in Morristown, N. J., where he died on June 5, 1875.

Maria H. Nutting, or as she was christened in Groton, Hannah Maria Nutting, was an early teacher here in about the year 1834. She was the daughter of Joseph Danforth and Lucinda Keep Nutting, and was born on January 17, 1814. Entered Groton academy in 1832, and after teaching a few years in this vicinity, went to Hudson, Ohio, where her uncle, Rufus Nutting, of Groton, was one of the first professors in Western Reserve college, then located there and which she attended. In 1839, she returned east and was married on March 4, in that year, to Rev. Nathan Stone Benham of Byron, N. Y., a missionary of the A. B. C. F. M. As intending missionaries they were married at a public service in the church at Groton by Rev. Dudley Phelps, and sailed from Boston in the ship Arno, July 6, 1839, with other missionaries, for Singapore, where they arrived on October 23, and located at Bangkok, Siam, on March 1, 1840.

Mr. Benham was not long engaged in the work before he was drowned by the upsetting of a boat in April, 1840, and his widow returned to the United States in May, 1840. She married again in Dummerston, Vt., Dr. Isaac Newton Knapp, November 17, 1845, and died at Clear Lake, Minnesota, on January 18, 1884.

Her brother, Rev. John W. Nutting, of Auburndale, Fla., says of her:

"Her life was a checkered one, but was wholly spent in humble service to others. She was the good angel for all the sick or destitute wherever she lived. Through long assisting her husband, in attending upon the sick, she became so much of a physician that her usefulness in the new regions of her later life was very great."

Clifford Belcher was born in Farmington, Me., March 31, 1819, and died at Homeopathic hospital in Boston, December 24, 1879. He was the son of Clifford and Deborah Allen Belcher, the father being of Stoughton and his mother of Princeton. He taught this school in 1836, and was one of those student teachers for he was a graduate of Harvard college in the class of 1837.

In the "Memorials of the Class of 1837, of Harvard University," is an extended notice. He studied law and began the practice of his profession in New York city. Went to New Orleans about 1846, and is said to have accumulated a large property which was swept away at the time of the civil war. He served one year as major in the Confederate army. Judge Holmes (who saw him in St. Louis, about 1875) says: "His success in his profession would seem to argue ability, character, and knowledge of the law, and I have no doubt he possessed all these in an eminent degree. The civil law and practice of Louisiana are quite different from the jurisprudence of the other states, and require familiarity with the system and much comprehensive learning, and he appears to have been a competent master of it."

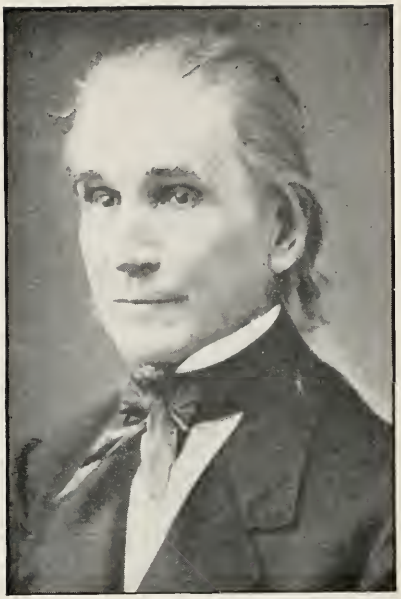
Charles Dickson was a son of Walter Dickson 2nd, and was born at the Groton homestead near No. 3 school on August 8, 1809. He fitted for college at Groton academy and went to Yale where he graduated in the class of 1835. In the winter of 1840, he taught the school in District No. 2.

In the spring of 1855, he moved with his family to Kansas and was one of those earnest eastern men who sought to save Kansas for the group of free states. His daughter Louisa, afterwards married William Livermore and they were living about five and one-half miles south of Lawrence at the time of Quantrell's raid, during the civil war, and Mr. Dickson's house was burned. The Livermore house on an adjoining claim was not burned.

After the destruction of Lawrence the guerrillas returned to Missouri by the road that passed the Livermore farm and Mrs. Livermore, who is now living in Shirley, tells how the families hid in the sugar cane and watched their destructive passage. Mr. Dickson died at Quenemo, Osage County, Kansas, July 5, 1881.

Harris C. Hartwell

Born at Groton, Mass., December 28, 1847. Died December 9, 1891.



Curtis Lawrence. 1799—1888.

No. 4. Nathan Sawtell House.

Mary Loring Brigham, daughter of George Brigham, of Groton, was born in that town on November 2, 1823. She was a half-sister of the late George Dexter Brigham, for many years the town clerk. She attended Groton academy, entering in 1836, and in the spring of 1841, taught No. 2 school. She married Mr. Gardner Morse of New Haven, Conn., in December, 1843, and died on February 20, 1856.

Elizabeth Jacobs was born in 1813, and taught in 1835. She died in Groton in the year 1899.

Cynthia S. Jacobs probably taught in 1842. She was the daughter of Sylvester and Cynthia Jacobs of Groton, and was born on the homestead in 1815, and died in the year of 1842. She was a sister of Elizabeth, who also taught here, and Charles Jacobs, who had particular charge of this school as committee-man for years.

In the spring of 1847, Miss Harriet Byron Harwood was the teacher. She was the daughter of Nahum and Sophia (Kimball) Harwood, and was born in Littleton, Mass., October 6, 1822. She entered Groton academy in 1840, and there prepared for teaching. She also taught in Lancaster, Mass., in 1848, and was married on January 1, 1850, to John W. Mulliken of Boxborough, and died in Charlestown, Mass., June 5, 1853. She was one of five brothers and sisters of the family, of which Joseph A. Harwood of Littleton, and Nahum Harwood of Leominster, were members.

The records show that Deacon Curtis Lawrence taught this school in 1847 and since his daughter went to school to him at her first attendance here we then have a verbal record of an earlier charge over this school. Mr. Lawrence in 1847 was a veteran teacher in the schools of Groton during the winter terms.

He was born in Groton April 26, 1799, at the old homestead on the east road in the district and his sons and daughters were pupils here and some of them went on through the academy and college.

His administration was marked by great interest and improvement. The school committee remarked in their report that "Love and respect for teacher were everywhere manifest."

Mr. Lawrence also taught what was called the grammar school at No. 12, Groton Junction, which some of the larger boys of District No. 2 attended winters. He was a remarkably tall man and kindliness lurked in the eyes overshadowed by his long shaggy eyebrows. He was long a noticeable person in this vicinity and died in Groton February 23, 1888. His first wife was Lucy Merriam, the mother of his children and she died November 18, 1846.

Susan Frances Lawrence, daughter of Deacon Curtis Lawrence, is now living in Groton in the home of her son. She married Reuben Lewis on November 8, 1866, and has one son, Frank D. Lewis, and one daughter, Susie E., wife of George S. Knapp. Mrs. Lewis was born in Groton on November 30, 1828, and is probably both the oldest living pupil and teacher of this school.

As a pupil in 1833 Mrs. Lewis remembers the old fireplace which was supposed to sufficiently heat the building. After leaving the school as a pupil she attended Groton Academy and Appleton academy in New Ipswich, and one year at Mt. Holyoke seminary and returned as a teacher in the summer of 1849 and taught several years elsewhere.

The following description of the schoolroom in 1833, may interest some of the present day scholars. Mrs. Lewis says:

"I remember the schoolroom as it was in those early days. The large fire-place was in the middle of the side opposite the door at which one entered. The teacher's desk was in the corner of the same side. On the other sides were the seats for the scholars with desks in front of them; the boys on one side, the girls on the other. There was a large space between them, where the scholars went out and stood in a line to read, spell, etc.

"The word given out to spell, if not spelled correctly by the one to whom given, was passed on, the one who spelled it right going above the others. The one who was at the head of the class wore a medal home at night, in the morning returning it and taking a place at the foot of the class. The medal was a twenty-five cent piece with a hole in it."

This system of spelling down, or spelling up, was quite in vogue about forty years ago, and the description given us by Mrs. Lewis shows that it had continued from a much earlier date. In those days the teacher must have been considered when the desk was located in the corner, comfortably near the fire-place.

Lucy Maria Lawrence, a sister, was a pupil here previous to her attendance at Groton Academy in 1837. She married Rev. William Wood on July 11, 1847, and they sailed in the same month for Bombay as missionaries at Satara mission in India. Two sons were born there and after the death of their mother in India they were sent to Groton to their grandfather, Deacon Curtis Lawrence and were pupils at the district school in 1857.

One was William Curtis Wood, who went to Yale and died in New Haven in 1875, the other was Edward Addison Wood, who graduated at Harvard Medical school in 1869 and became a successful physician and di d July 18, 1886.

Edward Addison Lawrence, oldest son of Curtis Lawrence, was a pupil here before 1837, when he attended Lawrence Academy. He was born February 25, 1823, graduated at Dartmouth in 1843 and was a teacher for many years. He was principal of Appleton academy at New Ipswich, N. H., for a period of seven years, afterwards a high school teacher, and he also taught a select school for boys at Wyoming, Pa., for several years. He died in Orange, N. J., February 6, 1911, aged eighty-eight years.

The interest of the Curtis Lawrence family has continued for over a century in this school, through the father and son and daughters, and Mrs. Lewis's husband, the late Reuben Lewis, was one of the school committee for several years.

Samuel Cragin Wheeler, a son of Artemas and Esther (Cragin) Wheeler, was born in Temple, N. H., April 27, 1820. After 1834, he was living with his parents in Groton on the road to the soapstone quarry at a farm just northerly of the farm of Deacon Isaiah Cragin, whose daughter Asenath he married, September 29, 1852. He entered a student at Groton academy in 1838, and it was probably at the close of his course here that he taught the school at District No. 2. John P. Hildreth of Townsend sat under his instruction for two terms after 1841, and without much doubt he taught in the winters of 1842 and 1843. He died in Groton on January 3, 1857.

Artemas Longley of Shirley was the winter school master for the term of 1848-49. He was born in Shirley October 19, 1815, and married May 18, 1845, Elizabeth Barrett of Shirley. Mr. Longley was a teacher of experience and a strict master of discipline in the school. One old scholar remembers how one day he called up an unruly boy, took him and threw him out of the window into a large snow bank, saying "When you think you can behave yourself you come in and do so." He had no further trouble with that boy.

Mr. Longley purchased a farm in Groton, on the cross road, in 1852, where his family now reside, and his daughters have all been most successful teachers, one of whom Sarah H. is the present teacher. He died at Groton, February 26, 1876.

Agnes Bancroft Pollard was employed as teacher for the spring terms of 1850-51-53. She was a most energetic teacher and in full control of her school. She was born in Groton on November 8, 1833, the youngest child of Jacob and Betsey (Davis) Pollard. She married, April 25, 1854, Asa Stillman Lawrence of Groton, and died on March 15, 1861. A son of this union, William Asa Lawrence, is a resident of Groton and one who has always manifested a deep interest in the public schools of his native town.

Hollis Carr was born in Stow, Mass., June 12, 1825, and this school in Groton in 1850, was one of the early ones taught by him. He also taught the Ballard Hill school in Lancaster, Mass., and in New Jersey and Philadelphia.

In 1862, he married Annie Parker of Pepperell, who died several years ago. Mr. Carr died on December 17, 1910, in Harvard, where he had been a resident many years. A notice of him appeared in Turner's Public Spirit under date of December 24, from which the following extract is taken:

"Mr. Carr was a man of unusual education for his times, and during

his younger days gained a reputation as a successful teacher in the surrounding towns. He was of an exceedingly kindly disposition and was universally liked by young and old."

Alden Ladd presided over the school during the winter terms of 1852 and 1853. He was born at Johnson, Vt., in 1830, and came to Lawrence academy in 1849, as a student. His parents were Avery S. and Sally (Cole) Ladd. He spent some time at Windsor Hill, attending lectures in the theological seminary, preparing for the ministry. He became a preacher of the Congregational faith and was pastor at Waterville, sixteen years in Roxbury and six years in Berlin and West Berlin, all in Vermont. He married first Sarah Edwards and secondly Mary Prentiss, both of Roxbury. The last years of his life were passed at West Randolph, Vt., where he died July 1, 1887.

At the close of Mr. Ladd's services in Groton, Mr. Boutwell, for the school committee, reported that they believed female teachers could be employed all the year around to advantage in some cases. Some of the parents had complained of the over strict discipline and the harshness of his corrective methods.

Miss Alma H. Willard was a lady of fine scholarship. She was born in 1828, the daughter of Stedman and Mary Howard Willard, who lived on the more recent John W. Tuttle farm. The family came from Lancaster to Groton in 1844, so that her attendance here as a pupil was quite brief before she went to the academy in 1845. After leaving the academy she taught at school No. 4 in Westford, and at No. 10 and 11 in Groton, and at this school in 1852. She was much loved and respected as a teacher on account of her thoroughness and ability to control the children under her care. Her two sisters, Almeda and Lydia, were also fine teachers. She married George Kendall of Ashby in 1864, who died on April 18, 1893. She was nearly blind in her later life and died in March, 1904.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Andrews taught the school in 1854, and boarded in the family of John Hodgman. She was in the next year a student at Lawrence academy and had attended Appleton academy in New Ipswich, N. H., before teaching. The school at No. 2 was her first experience as a teacher and was followed by engagements at the Harris Crossing school in Shirley, called the southeast district; then at Shirley village, and at Groton Junction, where she labored successfully for several years. She was the daughter of Peter and Sarah (Marston) Andrews of Shirley, and was born on September 30, 1833, on the farm where her brother Charles now lives. She married in 1871, Alpheus A. Adams, a merchant of Chester, Vt., and died there in 1899.

In 1855, Mary P. Baker came from Lowell, Mass., to teach this school. She was the daughter of Stephen and Sarah Curtis Baker, and was born at Tunbridge, Vt., March 6, 1826. Her mother died while the child was in infancy, and at the age of thirteen, she was deprived by death of her father. She was always bright and precocious as a child and could read in the new testament at the age of three years, and at the age of seven was the last to remain standing at a union spelling school. Her excellent education was secured in Lowell and she taught school in Tunbridge, Groton and Pepperell. She married Joseph Whitney in Pepperell on November 20, 1856, and is now living in Wells River, Vt., and is an invalid.

Frances O. Peabody, a daughter of John and Abigail (Spaulding) Peabody, was born in Groton, Mass., February 21, 1825. The home of her parents was the present Bigelow place on Main street, from which her brother William moved to the farm on the Ayer road, where he died on June 19, 1910. Frances, called Fannie in those days, was one of a family of six daughters and two sons, and of the sons, William only grew to manhood. The daughters were Frances, Elizabeth, Sarah, Mary Jane, Susan and Abigail. The first four became school teachers and taught in Groton and the surrounding towns. Their early education was supplemented by an attendance at Groton academy, and Frances taught at No. 2 in the spring of 1855, and at other times at school No. 3, Farmers' row, and at No. 9 in the Brown Loaf Hill district.

Miss Peabody for several years was matron in Dr. Brown's institution for feeble minded children and youth at

Barre, Mass., and filled the position with marked success. She was never married and died in Groton, March 19, 1907.

Charles O. Thompson, during the winter of 1855-56, came from Dartmouth college and taught the school, as others have done, resuming the college work in the spring. Mr. Thompson afterwards was president of the school now known as the Worcester Polytechnic institute at Worcester, Mass., and became one of the foremost educators of his time. The older pupils at No. 2 will remember the valuable instruction he gave them.

The following extract is taken from a memorial to Charles O. Thompson, prepared by a committee of the Terre Haute Literary club, of which he was a member,

"Charles Oliver Thompson, A. M., Ph. D., was born September 25, 1835, in East Windsor Hill, Connecticut, where his father, William Thompson, D. D., was then professor in the Connecticut Theological Seminary since removed to Hartford in the same state. He prepared for college under Paul A. Chadbourne, and entered Dartmouth in 1854. He was graduated in 1858, and received his degree of Master of Arts in 1861. His own college bestowed upon him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1879, and Williams in 1880. From September, 1858, till November, 1864, he was principal of Peacham academy in Vermont. From 1864, till the opening months of 1868, he was principal of the Cotting high school of Arlington, Mass. In February, 1868, he was elected principal of the Worcester Free Institute of Industrial Science. After spending eight months in Europe, he assisted at the opening of that school in November of the same year. In April, 1882, he accepted the presidency of the Rose Polytechnic institute at Terre Haute. Beginning with the following July, he spent another eight months in Europe. March 7, 1883, he delivered his inaugural address at the Rose Polytechnic, and held the presidency of that institution till his death, March 17, 1885. May 14, 1862, he married Miss Maria Goodrich, daughter of Horace Goodrich, M. D., at East Windsor Hill, Connecticut. His widow and three children survive him.

Miss Jane Elizabeth Davis was born in Newburyport, Mass., January 26, 1834, the daughter of Nathaniel and Lydia Knapp (Hills) Davis. Her grandfather Davis built and lived in the old Adolphus Holden house, now in Ayer, on the Nashua river. The present house was built about one hundred years ago, but the original house stood where the barn now is, and was built by the maternal ancesteors of Mr. Davis, the Stones, who were the original settlers of the farm. Miss Davis, the subject of this sketch, moved up to the Amos Farnsworth farm in 1851, when a young lady of seventeen, at that time of its purchase by her father. Miss Davis taught the school at No. 2 in 1856, and this was her only experience at teaching. In June, 1866, she married Alfred Pollard, who died in August, 1871. In November, 1872, she became the wife of Asa Stillman Lawrence, and died in her home in Groton in October, 1888, leaving no children. A sister, Sarah M. (Davis) Powers, is now living in Leominster.

Earl Webster Westgate taught here the winter term of 1856-57. He was born in Plainfield, N. H., August 31, 1838, son of John and Betsey Ann Westgate. While teaching he boarded like many other teachers in the family of John M. Gilson, near the school. Since leaving Groton he has been engaged in teaching and farming in Kansas and now lives in Manhattan, Kansas. He has been master of the state grange from 1900 to 1906, and representative for his county in the state legislature for the years 1909-10. He was married on August 21, 1861, to Julia Maria Porter, and November 11, 1905, to Lousia M. Cowell, and has a son Porter and daughter Julia. He is an active, energetic man in his county and state.

In the spring of 1857, Miss Amanda Parsons came from East Gloucester, Mass., to teach this school and while in Groton boarded with her cousins, the Harrimans, who lived on the old Moors place near the school. Miss Parsons had attended the public schools in her native town and taken a course at the Salem Normal school, and was a fine scholar. She was the daughter of Thomas L. and Matilda C. Parsons, and was born at East Glousester, December 14, 1836. Her father

Butler High School. Built 1870.

No. 10. John E. Gilson House. Built in 1871—Burned in 1904.

Dr. Cecil F. P. Bancroft.

was an old-time sea captain and the homestead of her parents was her home for years after her teaching experience at Groton. She never married and died at the old Parsons home on April 19, 1910.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Graham was in charge of this school in the summer term of 1858. She was a graduate of the State Normal school at Framingham and had attended Lawrence academy. She was born in Lunenburg, Mass., in December, 1839, the daughter of Ephraim Graham, who had been a teacher in Fitchburg, Lunenburg and Leominster. After leaving Groton, Miss Graham taught in East Walpole, Westminster, North Leominster and four years in Worcester. She then married Henry L. Bates of Boston, and is living in Dorchester.

The scholars of the winter terms of 1858 and 1859, were favored in having for their teacher, none other than Cecil F. P. Bancroft, who here began that profession which he made his life work and in which he was preëminently successful. Cecil Franklin Patch Bancroft, Ph. D., Lit. D., Williams; L. L. D., Yale; was born in New Ipswich, N. H., November 25, 1839, and died at Andover, Mass., October 1, 1901. Mr. Bancroft was a student at Dartmouth college and was permitted to come to Groton to teach. He still kept up his studies and graduated at the college in the class of 1860. After graduation he was principal of Appleton academy, Mt. Vernon, N. H., from 1860 to 1864; a theological student at Union Theological seminary, Schenectady, N. Y., 1865-66, and at Andover Theological seminary, 1865 to 1867.

He married on May 6, 1867, Miss Frances Adelia Kittredge, a former pupil and resident at Mt. Vernon, and immediately they went to Chattanooga to assume charge of "A loyal Christian New England school for poor whites," on Lookout Mountain. Here they remained until the school was closed in 1872. The years 1872-73, were spent in travel and study in Europe, and returning to America in 1873, Mr. Bancroft assumed the principalship of Phillips academy at Andover, Mass. He labored here with great success for twenty-eight years, a beloved instructor and greatly lamented at his death, October 4, 1901.

Three generations of Mr. Bancroft's ancestry lived in Groton in its early settlement and his parents, Deacon James Bancroft and his wife, Sarah Kendall Bancroft, moved to New Ipswich, N. H., where the subject of this sketch was born. Early in life he went to live with Mr. and Mrs. Patch of Ashby, friends of his parents. They had recently lost a little son by death and Cecil seemed to fill the aching void in their hearts. He attended the schools in Ashby and prepared for college at Appleton academy in New Ipswich. Here he formed a life-long friendship with John Wesley Churchill, who was with him at Andover, later in life, and was a noted teacher of elocution and reader.

Mr. Bancroft was present at the centennial celebration of Lawrence academy at Groton in 1893, and referred to the fact that he was "examined" by the late George S. Boutwell, when he applied to teach district school No. 2. One of his pupils at this school states that she always remembered the impressive manner in which their teacher conducted the required religious service at the opening of school and how on the last day of his teaching here he was greatly surprised when presented with a bible by his scholars.

His son, Cecil K. Bancroft, of Andover, informs me in writing: "I have before me a bible, 'Presented by his pupils of District No. 2, in Groton, Mass., February, 1859.'"

His services here were most efficient and brought out from the school committee the terse and fitting endorsement: "The school was in every respect a good one."

He was a close companion at Dartmouth of George A. Bruce and George A. Marden, who both came from Mt. Vernon, N. H., and this undoubtedly led to his going there to teach. Mr. Bruce afterwards taught at District No. 2, and George A. Marden was for years the editorial head of the Lowell Journal and Courier, and treasurer and receiver general of the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As principal at Appleton academy, Mt. Vernon, Mr. Bancroft had the able assistance, as preceptess, of his accomplished sister, who also taught the summer term for two years here at No. 2.

The following extract as tributes from friends are taken from an obituary notice of him in the Andover Townsman of October 1, 1901:

"His early success as a teacher forecast his life work, although in the meantime he made full preparation for the gospel ministry."

"Thousands of young men who have gone out into the larger educational fields, or into business life from the great school, whose head, Dr. Bancroft so long was, will ever tell by the influence of their lives, by the high standards they will raise, and through the strong characteristics they will ever show, that the foundations were laid by a master hand in the building of young manhood."

"All those that taught with him and a large proportion of his pupils are grateful that they were privileged to hear the morning petitions offered in the school chapel. Those prayers were gracious messages of peace and strength, and enabled many to establish their ways against evil and live a life that was true and serviceable."

"But I cannot forbear adding that the boy was father to the man, the young teacher was the prophecy of the mature education, for the same genial, cheery, kindly, unselfish heart, that won and blessed all who came under its influence in earlier days, is the sufficient secret of the success, which has crowned his twenty-eight years of tireless service in Andover, and makes the whole town, as well as the hosts of his scattered pupils sincerely mourn his death."

Susan F. Bancroft was a successful teacher here in the summer terms of 1859-60-61. She was born in New Ipswich, N. H., October 25, 1836, the daughter of James and Sarah W. Kendall Bancroft. She married Albert Conant of Boston, June, 1867, and died in Charlestown on January 28, 1885.

The following is an extract from an obituary notice of her in 1885:

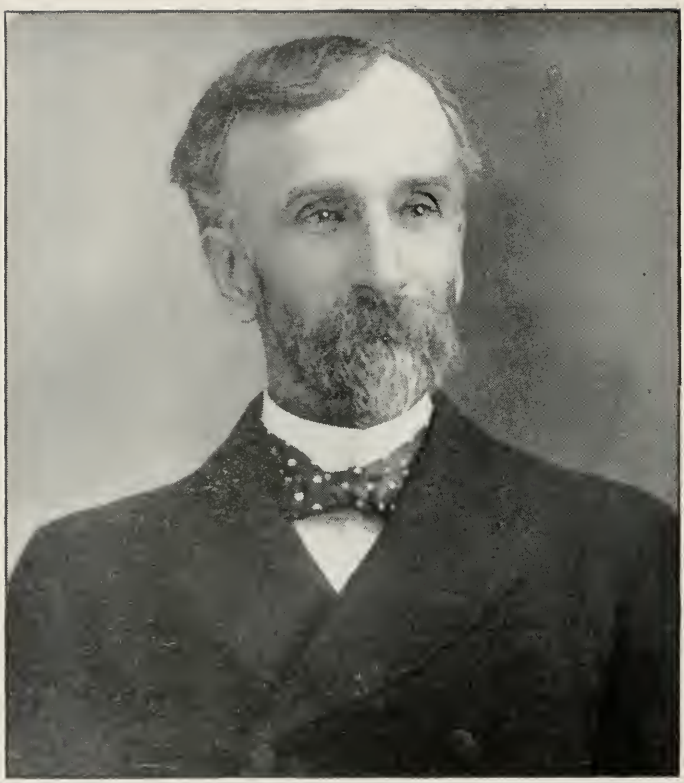
"At an early age she attended the common schools of her town and then entered New Ipswich Appleton academy where she pursued her studies, attained a high rank as a scholar and commenced the development of those noble traits of womanly character which became so conspicuous in her after life. At the age of sixteen she began to teach the "District school," first in the town of Nelson, and, subsequently, in New Ipswich, Rindge and Wilton. In the autumn of 1860, she became preceptress of Appleton academy, now McCollom institute, in Mt. Vernon, where she remained four years, the academy during that time being under the charge of her brother, Rev. Cecil F. P. Bancroft, Ph. D., now principal of Phillips academy, Andover, Mass. She again taught public schools in Mt. Vernon, Amherst, and also in Randolph and Charlestown, Mass. She was devoted to her chosen profession and never seemed to be more happy than when engaged in imparting instruction. She was always at ease in the schoolroom and made it attractive for her pupils. With them her rule was love and her word was law which they kindly and cheerfully obeyed. She had a thorough knowledge of her subjects and the wonderful art of making her scholars to understand them. Of her it can be truly said, she was apt to teach."

Rufus Livermore, who taught this school in the winter of 1860, was born in Groton on November 1, 1839, son of Daniel and Abigail (Trask) Livermore. He fitted for college at Lawrence academy and studied for a while at Williams college. He then attended the Albany Law school and was admitted to the bar of New York state. While familiarizing himself with the Massachusetts legal code and teaching, the war broke out and he was one of the first to enlist and as a member of (Groton) Company B, 6th regiment, was in the bloody march through Baltimore, April 19, 1861. He returned to Groton and assisted in securing further enlistments and finally went again to the war in the Third Rhode Island cavalry. On January 22, 1863, he was married to Martha Elizabeth Todd.

After the war he lived for a while at the Lewis Blood place on Washington street, Groton Junction, now Ayer. After this brief residence here, he moved to Orange, and became closely identified with the concern which eventually became the Rodney Hunt Machine Company, of which he was secretary and director. He became one of the most prominent and respected citizens of the town. He was

Rufus Livermore. 1839—1841.

No. 35. Dickson-Dickinson Home.



Dr. Benjamin Hall Hartwell. Born February 27, 1845—Died December 6, 1904.

a representative to the state legislature in 1879, and a state senator for the years 1883 and 1884.

Mr. Livermore died in Orange, July 8, 1891, after a short illness. He was closely connected with many local organizations, was an active, earnest member of the Congregational church, a superintendent and teacher in the Sunday school, and active in all work which promoted the welfare of the community.

One of his associates has fittingly said:

"Mr. Livermore was a man for whom I felt the highest respect. It was not necessary to know him a long time and to watch his course through a series of years in order to be assured of his sterling character. He was one of the few men whose every act was impressed with intimate integrity and honor."

George Anson Bruce, in the winter of 1861, became the teacher. It is interesting to note that Cecil F. P. Bancroft, a former teacher, was then teaching at Mt. Vernon, N. H., the place of birth of Mr. Bruce, where he was born on November 19, 1839. His parents were Nathaniel and Lucy (Butterfield) Bruce. He graduated at Dartmouth in the class of 1861, and after leaving school No. 2, served in Thirteenth N. H. Volunteers in the war of the rebellion. He was admitted to the bar of Middlesex county in Massachusetts in April, 1866. He was a member of the New Hampshire legislature, and in 1882-3-4, in the Massachusetts senate, being president in the last named year. He moved to Somerville in 1874, and was mayor of that city for three years. He married on January 26, 1870, Clara Moors Hall, daughter of Joseph Fletcher and Sarah (Longley) Hall of Groton.

Julia Maria Page was the teacher in the spring of 1862, and was born in Shirley on August 12, 1844. She was the daughter of George and Abigail (Gibson) Page. She had the benefit of the instruction at Shirley Center of Charles Goodrich, who taught advanced scholars in the lower room of the town house, where she and her brother Walter both attended. She was also taught privately by Mary Longley, a sister of the late Melvin W. Longley. This school at Groton was her first, and she taught later at Shirley village and Shirley Center. She married Thomas L. Hazen of Shirley on November 17, 1867, and died on September 6, 1883. Their daughter, Mabel G. Hazen, born on July 27, 1872, was a graduate of Fitchburg high school, Smith college, and took a course at Bridgewater as preparation for teacher. Like her mother, she has been a successful teacher.

Emma Caroline Hartwell, daughter of Benjamin F. and Emma Whitman Hartwell, was born in Acton, Mass., May 20, 1843, and with her brother Benjamin came with their parents to Groton, the place of birth of the father, when quite young. She graduated at Lawrence academy and became a teacher. She taught this school in the summer and winter of 1863, and in the summer of 1864. She afterwards went to Galiopolis, Ohio where she taught for several years and where she was married to M. V. B. Kennedy. The family afterward moved to Zanesville, Ohio, where Mr. Kennedy died. She now resides with her only son in the last named city.

The school committee were pleased to say in their report for 1863-64:

"The summer and winter terms were taught by Miss Emma C. Hartwell of this town, who possesses admirable qualities for a teacher"; and in the next report for 1864-65: "She is a thorough scholar and insists upon thoroughness on the part of her pupils."

Benjamin Hall Hartwell, who taught in the winter of 1864, had been a pupil with his brother Harris in the same school. This was his first experience in the profession which he later gave up for that of a physician. He was born in Acton, Mass., February 27, 1845, and came to Groton with his parents in 1847, to the "community" location. He graduated at Lawrence academy and after his season of teaching here, taught the school at Sandy pond, now in Ayer, and then the high school at Groton Center. Educational interest lost a good teacher and the medical profession gained an eminently successful practitioner. He became a resident of the present town of Ayer in 1869, and was closely identified with its schools and other public institutions. He died at Ayer on

December 6, 1904, much lamented and long to be remembered.

Miss Lizzie S. Jaquith, the teacher for the summer of 1865, was born in Ashby, Mass., and attended the district schools and the high school in that town. From the high school she came to teach the school in this district. After leaving Groton she taught in Ashby, Ashburnham, New Ipswich, Milford district schools until her marriage in 1876, to Erastus O. Wheeler of Ashby. She died in 1880. A sister resides in Fitchburg, and a son in Pomfret, Vt.

Maria Catherine Wright, the eldest daughter of Deacon Alva Wright, taught in the winter of 1865. She was born in Groton, August 18, 1842; was a pupil at No. 2, and entered Lawrence academy in 1854. With some other ambitious young ladies in 1858, she was examined at the old brick schoolhouse opposite the academy for a position as teacher and at that early age of sixteen began to teach in Groton. At various times she taught first at No. 14, at the paper mill; at No. 11, Sandy pond; also, in Dunstable and South Lancaster. She also taught in the academy at Mt. Vernon, N. H., taking the place there of Miss Susan F. Bancroft, who had previously been a teacher at our school at No. 2. In 1867, she went as a teacher in a large school for freedmen, the Lincoln school at Memphis, Tenn., located in surroundings especially trying for our eastern girls accustomed to good roads, sidewalks and well-kept grounds. In 1877, she married Shelby H. Sawyer, whom she survives and she makes her home in Groton.

In this place it may be said that the Wright girls had a fine reputation for punctuality and scholarly application, and at one of the examinations when they were pupils, the committee after looking over the register, wished to see those Wright sisters.

"Where are they; let them stand up." They had not been absent or tardy during the long, severe winter term.

Fannie E. Wright, the teacher for the spring of 1866, was one of the three daughters of Alva and Fanny G. (Woods) Wright, who all taught this school at different times. She was born in Groton, December 10, 1846, and attended this school as a pupil and also at Lawrence academy. She was married in 1868, to Burton W. Potter, esq., who had also attended the academy. She also taught in the north and east schools of Groton. Since her marriage she has held many positions of usefulness in the church, Woman's club, and patriotic organizations of Worcester, where she now resides.

James Calvin Carter Parker came to this school in the winter of 1866, as a teacher, but did not make an extensive stay. This may have been a hard school for Mr. Parker, but at any rate he failed to arouse the interest of his pupils. He was born in Shirley on July 19, 1846, the son of Dr. James Otis and Martha Lincoln Carter Parker. After seven months' military service in the Second Massachusetts cavalry in 1865, he attended Lawrence academy, being enrolled in 1866. He also taught at East Shirley. He was a direct descendant of Captain James Parker, an early settler of Groton, and his father was a graduate of old Groton academy in 1820, and Amherst college in 1834, and was a well-known physician at Shirley. The son died recently, January 27, 1911, at his home in Shirley.

Miss Cynthia A. Goodnow, a teacher in the spring of 1868, was born in Boston, the daughter of Asa and Cynthia Hamilton Goodnow, June 27, 1849. In her early life, with a sister, Mary A., now wife of Leonard Stone of Roxbury, she came to Littleton, after the death of their mother, to make her home in the family of a cousin, Mrs. Mary J. Priest, and for about ten years Littleton was their home. During these years she attended Lawrence academy at Groton, being enrolled at that institution with her sister in 1865, during that time taking private lessons also of Miss Clarissa Butler. She graduated at Salem Normal school on January 23, 1868, and was one of the essayists. After the period of teaching in Groton, she went to Brookline, Mass., to make a home for her father, and died there on February 10, 1877.

The teacher for the spring term of 1869, was Miss Rebecca Arabella Prescott of Westford, Mass. She was the daughter of Levi and Rebecca Fletcher Prescott, and was born in

Westford in October, 1848. While teaching this school she boarded in the family of John M. Gilson, as several teachers have done. Miss Prescott attended the public schools of her native town and received private instruction preparatory to her taking up the profession, which she followed at Littleton, Westford, Sandy pond, Graniteville and Bridgewater, N. H. She died in Westford on August 13, 1881.

Miss Genie A. Hunt came from Vermont to teach the school in the spring of 1870. She was born in Fairfax, Vt., on April 21, 1847, daughter of Heman and Julia Safford Hunt. While in Groton, she boarded at the Ephraim Sawtelle house. Vermont had more claims on her services and she returned there after the term of teaching here. Since then she has taught in Vermont, Wisconsin, Nebraska, California and is now teaching a course in manual arts at Brigham academy at Bakersfield, Vt.

Sarah Jane Wright, better known to her pupils as Miss Jennie Wright, taught several terms, beginning in 1870. She was born in Groton on October 24, 1848, the daughter of Deacon Alva and Fanny Gilson Wright. She was also for some years a pupil here, beginning with Miss Alma Willard and ending with her own sister, Maria C. Wright, as teacher. Besides teaching here, she also taught other schools in Groton, Graniteville and Worcester. Miss Wright married on December 24, 1873, Josiah K. Proctor, and they now live at Wyncote, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia.

She recalls many amusing incidents as pupil and teacher. At one time a boy was given this sentence to read: "Why do you not take better care of your king?" taken from a bible story.

In a halting manner the boy read: "W-h-why d-do y-o-you n-o-t-not tak-take a b-e-basket and c-a-r-carry you-your k-i-n-g-king?"

Mr. Andrews, one of the committee, was once questioning a class in grammar and called upon this same lad who had tried "to carry a king in a basket," and asked him to give the plural of scissors: "Shears sir," he replied, and of sheep, "Sheeps sir."

A small boy failed to recognize his own name when he began to spell it: S-t-e-p—h-e-n, until told that it was really "Stephen."

Miss Lucy Maria Hill was well-known in the district when she came to teach the school in the fall of 1872. She lived with her parents, Henry and Abigail Coffin Hill, upon Farmers' row, nearer Groton, and had attended the academy in 1864, when her sister also attended. She also attended Abbott academy in Andover, Mass. She was born in Bradford, Mass., December 15, 1849; married Frederick Fosdick, son of Rev. David Fosdick, a neighbor, April 24, 1873, and resided in Fitchburg until her death on December 8, 1908. Mr. Fosdick has held many positions of trust in that city, having been elected mayor several times.

Mrs. Ellen M. Torrey, as a teacher of Moors school, will always be remembered as one of the most successful teachers Groton ever had, though her work was confined to the district schools. She is the daughter of the late Samuel and Clarissa (Hartwell) Williams, and was born in Groton on Chicopee row in 1846. She married first, Rev. Watson Willard Torrey, a son of Willard Torrey, of the Chicopee row neighborhood, and secondly, Sumner R. Mason. He was a son of Rev. S. R. Mason, D. D., of Cambridge, Mass., who was killed in a railroad wreck near Boston, several years ago. The Mason family, after his death, came to Groton in 1875, and purchased the old Levi Stone farm below the school. She attended school at No. 7 in her young days, and was enrolled at Lawrence academy in 1857. During her years of teaching she kept school in Connecticut, Iowa, Harvard, Weymouth and four different schools in Groton, besides giving private instructions in Newton.

Mrs. Mason says: "The motto, 'Not how much but how well,' which I tried to impress on the minds of my beloved pupils of Moors school has in the main been my own." Her own children have gone out into the world earnest exponents of their mother's belief and two have been teachers in Groton and Pepperell.

Mrs. Mason will have the sympathy of all her old pupils in the loss of her husband, Sumner R. Mason, who died on August 5, 1911.

The following is a tribute from a former pupil to her old teacher:

"Mrs. Ellen M. Torrey, under whose guidance I was fortunate enough to be, was far above the average country school teacher. Her sunny nature and rare womanliness made us all love her. She developed the best in each one and held up high ideals which left an impression upon our after lives."

The teacher for 1877-8, was Miss Clara F. Woods of Ayer, a graduate of the high school there in 1876, and the class secretary. Miss Woods was the daughter of Moses W. and Caroline L. Woods, and was born in Shirley, Mass., December 5, 1859. She was a successful teacher here and afterwards went to Wellesley college, and then taught in Needham, Natick and Ayer. She married in April, 1882, George H. Hill of Ayer, where she now resides.

In 1892, for two terms, Miss Nancy Jane May of Groton, was in charge of the school. She was the daughter of George and Mary May, and was born in Groton on June 14, 1873. She taught also the Willard and Chaplin schools in Groton, the Coolidge and Hosmer schools in Watertown, and was a teacher at the Elliot school in Boston just previous to her death, which occurred in that city on January 17, 1907. She was a graduate of the Groton high school, class of 1890, and attended the State Normal school at Framingham.

In the spring of 1893, the school was taught by Miss Martha Leola Wright, daughter of Henry T. and Martha A. Wright of Groton. She was born in Ayer, Mass., July 30, 1872, and this was her first school, taken up after two years at Smith college, Northampton. She had previously completed a four-years' course at Vermont academy, Saxton River, Vt. After a successful term here, she returned to Smith college and completed the course in 1895. She has since taught in Ware, Mass., and at present is a teacher of history in the Northampton high school. As a pleasant accompaniment to the work, she traveled in 1905, in France, Italy and Greece.

Miss Mary A. Kimball, a well-known and successful teacher in Groton Center at the present time, presided over the school for two terms in 1908, while Miss Longley was in California. Miss Kimball was born in Alfred, Me., the daughter of Alden B. and Caroline C. Kimball. She is a graduate of the Alfred high school and the normal school at Gorham, Me. She taught in Maine, and in Massachusetts in the towns of Danvers, Beverly and Lynn, and in this vicinity in Townsend and Pepperell.

Miss Anna Bancroft, who taught in 1879, was one of the four daughters of the late Edmund Dana and Mary P. M. Bancroft. She was born in Shirley, Mass., November 21, 1854, and her home was at Ayer for many years. She graduated at Lawrence academy in the class of 1872, and taught school ten years in this state previous to her marriage to Charles H. Richardson of Groton and Washington, D. C., October 10, 1883. Mr. Richardson had been a pupil at this same school nineteen years before. As a teacher she was universally loved by her pupils and was altogether successful. Since her husband's death, Mrs. Richardson has resided at Washington, holding a position in the dead letter office.

The long continued service of Miss Sarah H. Longley as teacher of this school, is one that is quite noticeable and which meets with universal approbation on the part of pupils and parents. Thirty complete school years at one little brick schoolhouse is a record to be proud of, and the teacher can see her pupils grow into useful men and women while still keeping guard over the moral and intellectual welfare of those who are to follow from the same neighborhood school. Miss Longley came to this school well equipped with a normal school training and is considered one of Groton's best teachers, who are always needed in tne rural district schools.

A list of pupils who have taught school:

Evans, Harrison D., Peterboro, Mason, Hillsboro, Wilton and Sharon in New Hampshire; also, in Illinois, and in West Townsend and Chelmsford, Mass.

Gilson, Mary Emeline, Groton.

Hartwell, Benjamin H., No. 2-11-Groton high.

Hennigan, Kate, in Groton at Trowbridge, Butler Intermediate and

Samuel L. Graves. Born at Groton, Mass., July 18, 1847.

No. 38. Hackett House.

The Gerrish Store. 1783—1885. Temporary Quarters of Groton High School.

Tarbell schools; in Holden and at Belmont school, Malden, Mass., since 1892.
Keyes, Lizzie, Acton.
Keating, Susie, Maynard and Everett.
Keating, Mary J., Groton.
Lawrence, Curtis, No. 2 and No. 12.
Lawrence, Edward Addison, Appleton academy, New Ipswich, N. H.
Lawrence, Susan F., No. 2.
Pollard, Agnes B., No. 2.
Richardson, Mary Eliza, Westford.
Richardson, Rufus B., Yale, New Haven; Bloomington, Indiana; Dartmouth.
Richardson, Charles H., Ayer.
Richardson, Edward A., Groton.
Stone, Emma, Westford, Shirley and Tyngsboro.
Torrey, Linette W., Groton.
Tuttle, Lena W., Bolton, Littleton, Groton, Bradford, N. H., Greenfield, N. H., Boscawen, N. H.
Willard, Alma H., No. 2.
Wright, Sarah J., Groton, Westford, Worcester.
Wright, Maria C., Groton, Dunstable, New Hampshire, Tennessee.
Wright, Fannie E., Groton, 3 schools.
Wait, Charles H., Kansas.
Weber, Ellnor May, Goshen, Mass., Salisbury, N. H., Plainfield, Mass.

There were four pupils at No. 2 in about the same period, who were close neighbors and chums and kept up the acquaintance in after years as they went on to the high school or academy and on to still higher educational institutions.

Benjamin H. Hartwell took a course of lectures at the medical school at Dartmouth and at Jefferson Medical college at Philadelphia, where he graduated in 1868. He became a skilled physician as has been stated elsewhere.

His only brother, Harris C. Hartwell, went to Harvard and graduated in the class of 1869. He located as a lawyer in Fitchburg, where he died in 1891, in the very midst of a successful career.

Samuel L. Graves went to Amherst college, where he graduated in the class of 1870. He also located as a lawyer in Fitchburg, where he has filled many important positions of trust.

Rufus B. Richardson went to Yale, where he graduated in 1869, and afterwards taught there and held professorship chairs at Indiana State university and Dartmouth college, and became a noted student of Grecian antiquities.

The names of the one-time pupils who have had a military service and their enrollment is here given:

Brown, Daniel, war of rebellion.
Brown, William, war of rebellion.
Dickson, Henry A., Co. B, 6th Massachusetts regiment; Co. E, 33rd Massachusetts regiment.
Dickson, Walter E., Co. D, 5th Massachusetts regiment.
Donlon, Michael, Co. D, 20th Massachusetts regiment; Co. L, 2nd U. S. cavalry.
Donlon, Patrick, U. S. railway military department.
Duren, George B., Co. B, 26th Massachusetts regiment.
Duren, Charles, 57th and 59th Massachusetts regiments.
Evans, Harrison D., 13th N. H. regiment.
Farnsworth, George H., Co. B, 6th Massachusetts regiment.
Gilson, George Herman, 26th Massachusetts regiment.
Gilson, Sumner, Co. B, 6th Massachusetts regiment.
Hackett, Michael, Co. B, 33rd Massachusetts regiment.
Hartwell, John S., 14th N. H. regiment.
Kendall, George E., Co. B, 26th Massachusetts regiment.
Messer, Abbott M., Co. B, 26th Massachusetts regiment.
Richardson, Rufus B., Co. B, 6th Massachusetts regiment.
Richardson, Alfred A., Co. B, 6th Massachusetts regiment.
Proctor, Sanford, U. S. navy, eight and one-half years.
Mason, Joseph, cadet at U. S. naval academy, Annapolis.
Goding, John W., cadet at U. S. military academy, West Point.
Berquist, Oscar W., Spanish-American war, 1898.

To this list may be added the teachers:

Bruce, George Anson, 13th N. H. volunteers.
Bancroft, Cecil F. P., Christian commission, 1864-65.
Livermore, Rufus, Co. B, 6th Massachusetts regiment.
Parker, James C. C., 2nd Massachusetts cavalry.

Michael Hackett, one of the pupils in 1860, just before the war, was the son of John and Mary Hackett, and came to America when a small boy. He died in Manchester, N. H., May 11, 1911, aged sixty-eight years. It is related that he was such a zealous soldier boy that he went off to the rendezvous without informing his parents and that his mother, with a younger infant brother in her arms, went to the camp and begged for the return of her boy home. The recruiting officer was more willing than the boy, who was really under age, but the boy informed his mother that it was no use to take him home for he

would enlist again. She finally gave her consent and he went away to the war in Company B, 33rd Massachusetts regiment and served four years, and at the close of the rebellion enlisted in the regular army for a three-year service. Mr. Hackett used to say that he had been, during his military service, in every state in the union, except Vermont. He was a brave soldier and a general favorite with officers and men. He was an active member of Louis Bell Post No. 3, G. A. R., at Manchester. He is survived by a widow, one son and five daughters.

Henry A. Dickson, a pupil for a short period in about 1842, was one of those patriotic citizens, who in April, 1861, responded to the first call for troops, and marched to the defence of the national capital. After serving in Company B, "Old Sixth," for three months, he enlisted in Company E, 33rd Massachusetts regiment for three years. Mr. Dickson lives in Fitchburg and was the commander of E. V. Sumner Post 19, G. A. R., for the past year.

In closing this school narrative I am aware that the subject is of more particular interest to those families which have had representatives in the school as pupils or teachers, than to the general reader. The work has been undertaken with a purpose to preserve the fugitive facts, less easily obtainable as the years pass by. The reminiscences of old pupils of school life here bring out many almost forgotten facts in the home life of the inhabitants of the district. To some extent this account is supplementary to "The story of a Neighborhood," which was published in the spring of 1911.

Some of the old pupils recall their attendance at the high school in the upper part of the Gerrish building at Groton Center, just before the new high school was erected in 1870.

The present generation of scholars will be interested to learn something of the school life of those earlier ones, who trudged over these same country roads, in sunshine and in storm and sat within the same walls to secure the instruction which would fit them for whatever station in life.

The old homes have undergone transformations from time to time, with here an addition and there an entirely new house, but in many cases the general form of the buildings is the same as when erected.

The views of houses shown herewith may be identified as the homes of the pupils by referring to the numbered list of the homes of parents in the forward part of this narrative.

At the "Community" on the hill, fires and removals near the Groton Episcopal school have caused many of the old houses to disappear and have changed the entire neighborhood, but on the east road very few changes have been made in the homes, and with one exception, fire has not placed its effacing hand in that part of the old district.

Not to the same extent as formerly do the families continue on at the old homesteads, generation after generation, but the present occupants may see in imagination the sacrifices and hopes of former owners for the success of the children who were brought up beneath the old roof-trees and were pupils at Old Number Two School.

Huntley S. Turner, Printer, Ayer

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